Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 101 | WEDNESDAY MAY 22, 2013 | www.saipantribune.com | 75¢

COP barista repeats at Taste competition. PAGE 6
Green turtle shot with spear gun. PAGE 7

CPA's Sasamoto cites agency's turnaround under his watch

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Derek T. Sasamoto, the outgoing comptroller of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, broke his silence yesterday, saying the board's recent decision not to renew his contract came as a complete surprise, considering the many positive strides CPA has made under his tenure.

Not only was he never made aware nor informed of any deficiencies in the performance of his duties, but Sasamoto said he is perplexed and the decision came with much confusion.

"First of all, it was no secret that CPA was significantly deficient in meeting its bond indenture requirements. In fact, the bond coverages achieved by the agency's airports at the time of my entrance were 0.19 in [fiscal year] 2007, or $1,579,746 short of compliance, and -0.56 (negative coverage) in [fiscal year] 2008,

See SASAMOTO on Page 4

WITH MILITARY POISED TO USE LEASED LANDS ON TINIAN

Plans to develop Aguiguan for eco-tourism

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Plans are underway to develop Aguiguan or Goat Island into an ecological tourism destination, showcasing the island's untapped natural beauty and resources at a time when the U.S. Department of Defense plans to use all or most of its leased lands on Tinian for military training.

Two-thirds of Tinian lands are leased to the U.S. military and plans are underway to build live-fire training ranges on Tinian and Pagan in the Northern Islands.

Aguiguan, located less than 10 km south of Tinian, is the smallest of five islands making up the southern part of the Marianas chain of islands.

Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, in an interview yesterday, said the idea is to turn Aguiguan into a sustainable tourism resort destination minus most modern amenities, offering something new yet readily available experience for tourists and residents.

He said his office has asked help from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, the Department of Public Lands, and other government agencies to turn the plan for Aguiguan into a reality.

"We should be thinking outside the box. We would have wanted this to be a low-profile plan. We're still in the beginning stages of the plan," dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

DPL acting secretary Pete A. Tenorio separately said the department will help the Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor's Office

See AGUIGUAN on Page 4

BEATING THE HEAT
A young tourist climbs a giant floater at a children's pool at Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio on Saturday. Hotel water parks help position the CNMI as a family-friendly tourist destination. The CNMI's tourism industry has been seeing steady growth, including a recent 13-percent increase in arrivals, or from 36,033 in March 2012 to 40,666 in March 2013, the Marianas Visitors Authority says.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Survey on Quichocho unfair—Cruz

» Administration: There will always be pros, cons on appointments

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Cruz

The chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, which is tasked to review the governor's appointments for recommendation to the full Senate, said yesterday that the CNMI Bar Association's evaluation of Superior Court associate judge nominee Ramon "Ray" K. Quichocho is "unfair."

The NMI Bar Association gave Quichocho low scores equivalent to "unacceptable" and "deficient."

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) said the EAGI Committee under his chairmanship recommended full Senate confirmation of three judges, and none received an evaluation from the Bar Association.

Cruz said the Bar Association coming out with an evaluation only on Quicho-

See CRUZ on Page 4

Guam prosecutor cites ethical lapses, possibly even criminal acts by lawyer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Quichocho

An expert witness retained in a racketeering lawsuit against attorney Ramon K. Quichocho has stated that Quichocho not only committed ethical transgressions but likely even criminal acts.

Benjamin M. Abrams, an assistant attorney general at the Guam Office of the Attorney General, said the facts strongly suggest that Quichocho took unfair and unethical advantage of a client, Jung Ja Kim, by sexually victimizing her while she was on depression medication, thwarting her recovery, in an act of moral turpitude, and violative of the American Bar Association's Disciplinary Rules.

Saipan Tribune emailed Quichocho

See PROSECUTOR on Page 4

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
With 10 months to go before its projected collapse, do you think the NMI Retirement Fund can still be saved?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Yahoo looks to regain its cool with $1.1 billion Tumblr deal.
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NATION

A monstrous tornado hits Oklahoma City suburb, killing 51.
➤ PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE

J.J. Abrams is master of one universe–and he's about to try conquering another.
➤ PAGE 19

Local

CHC correction plan targets full completion by June 15

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The much-awaited completion of the public hospital's plan of corrections is expected next month, despite a number of still unaddressed citations, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. interim CEO Esther Muña on Friday.

In her report to the corporation's board, Muña said they will also hold a mock survey at the Commonwealth Health Center to ensure that the hospital is ready for the visit by a team from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The health agency will send a resurvey team to the hospital in July to check if the concerns it raised earlier have been addressed. The resurvey results will determine if the hospital's Condition of Participation with CMMS will be revoked or not.

An optimistic Muña said that the commissioned corps is expected next week on island to conduct a mock survey at the hospital. The team did a similar mock survey in March and the results were blended with the hospital's new plan of corrections.

The board was presented Friday with the latest updates on each and every citation received from CMMS last year.

Muna's team reported full compliance on personnel licensure. That means all hospital medical staff are now certified and licensed for their positions.

She said progress is being made in hiring a permanent chief financial officer and mentoring for the CEO. These recruitment efforts, she said, are acceptable testaments to prove the organization's goal of hiring permanent officers.

In the area of patients' rights, Muña's team disclosed that documents will be routed, to be followed by the necessary training of personnel. Signages for clearer and bigger printouts are also in the works. Target date for this item is before the end of the month.

Nursing director Leticia Reyes disclosed that the department is now fully compliant with licensing and certification, reporting that no nurses are now allowed to be in "code-blue" schedule unless they are certified. Other minor citations were described as work in progress, including the necessary trainings for nurses.

Meantime, the board expressed concern on the yet-to-be completed medical staff bylaws, which is still being reviewed.

Medicare also cited the hospital for the poor condition of many of its equipment. Muña reported that although these medical equipment are old, they are operational and in running condition. She assured that preventive maintenance is in place.

CMMS also identified equipment that the hospital must have and Muña said that the Executive Branch has already assured funding for these equipment. It is just waiting for the corporation to submit a list of "high priority" tools for the hospital. Among these items is the hospital's air-conditioning system, which the board described as on the verge of collapse.

All CMMS citations, contained in a 217-page document, must be addressed before the July resurvey visit. Failure to fully resolve these deficiencies may result in the hospital losing millions of dollars in Medicare reimbursements.

Buckingham wants more time to reply to Taylor lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Colorado-based former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham signed an agreement with former CNMI government lawyer James William Taylor yesterday to give him more to respond to Taylor's lawsuit against him.

Buckingham and Taylor's counsel, Robert T. Torres, submitted yesterday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI a stipulation to extend time to respond to Taylor's complaint.

The parties agreed that Buckingham was properly served with Taylor's summons and complaint on May 1, 2013, by substitute service.

Buckingham's response would be due on June 4, 2013.

The parties also agreed to extend the CNMI government's and the Office of the Attorney General's Office's time to file a response to the complaint to June 4, 2013.

Buckingham and Torres, however, noted that nothing in their stipulation shall be construed as Taylor conceding that representation by the OAG in this case is proper.

Torres and assistant attorney general Reena J. Patel also filed last week a stipulation to extend time. Patel is counsel for the CNMI government and the OAG.

Taylor, a retired U.S. Air Force officer, filed the age discrimination lawsuit last month against Buckingham and other co-defendants.

Taylor claimed that Buckingham fired him in 2011 without following proper procedures to save on cost and in retaliation for his advice against the approval of some sole-source contracts.

Buckingham was arrested in Colorado last week. He is out on bail.

The Office of the Public Auditor has filed criminal charges against Buckingham in connection with an alleged violation of election laws and illegal awards of a sole-source contract, among others.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-GOV-110

Purchase of Ground Maintenance Equipment & Tools

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, are soliciting sealed bids for the Purchase of Ground Maintenance Equipment & Tools.

The project package will be available Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing **no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 22, 2013** to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB13-GOV-110"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, June 5, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time June 5, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 5, 2013** and must be received no later than **June 14, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, June 17, 2013**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at **10:30 a.m. Saipan local time, on June 5, 2013.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245.. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable asset are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty **(60)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars **($100.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

House OKs POB authorization, 5-year transition extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed late yesterday afternoon a bill authorizing the Commonwealth Development Authority to issue pension obligation bonds of "up to $300 million" to pay for the government's obligations to the NMI Retirement Fund and help prolong its lifespan beyond March 2014.

House members also adopted a joint resolution supporting a five-year extension of the federalization transition period beyond Dec. 31, 2014, so that the CNMI will have continued access to over 12,000 foreign workers that support its still fragile tourism economy.

These two measures were among the bills and resolutions that the House passed during its session yesterday.

» Other bills, resolutions passed

The pension obligation bond authorization measure or House Bill 18-50, House Draft 1 passed the House by a vote of 19-0 with one absence.

It now goes to the Senate for action.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), author of the bill, thanked his colleagues for understanding the pension agency's dire situation and hopes that the Senate will also pass it.

"By passing this bill and signing it into law, CDA will have the authority to float a bond for the Retirement Fund. It could be $70 million bond or $100 million or $200 million, it depends on CDA's study. Whether it's $70 million or $300 million, it will be a big help to the Fund. Especially if all other revenue generating bills that the House passed will be signed into law, we will be able to save the Fund," Sablan told Saipan Tribune.

Without immediate infusion of cash, the Fund is expected to last only up to March 2014.

A $20 million general fund remittance to the pension agency from the proposed fiscal year 2014 budget is expected to prolong the pension agency's lifespan by some four months. House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) said the panel will keep this $20 million intact.

The House's passage of the CDA authorization bill came six months since voters approved during the Nov. 6 elections a legislative initiative amending Article 10 of the NMI Constitution to allow the issuance of a pension obligation bond.

Transition extension

House members also adopted House Joint Resolution 18-5, supporting a five-year extension of the Commonwealth-only transitional worker program beyond Dec. 31, 2014, "to prevent collapse of the CNMI economy."

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), the resolution's author, said once the Senate also adopts the measure, it will show the federal government that the CNMI is unified in its position supporting the transition period's extension up to 2019.

Conner, chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs, said he's hoping that the requested extension, once granted, should be used to fully prepare U.S. or resident workers for the program's eventual phase out.

Without such extension of the transitional CW program, the CNMI could lose access to over 12,000 skilled and professional foreign workers, many of whom do not qualify for H visas.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) separately asked U.S. Labor Secretary Seth D. Harris to extend the transition period up to 2019. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and other groups also support an extension.

The U.S. Labor secretary has yet to decide on the CNMI's request.

Resolutions adopted

The House adopted at least four other resolutions yesterday, including House Resolution 18-16 requesting Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero to enforce bicycle laws.

House members also adopted House Joint Resolution 18-6, urging Gov. Eloy S. Inos to "concur and support" Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas' opinion that former governor Benigno R. Fitial had no authority to enter into the no-bid $190.8 million diesel power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC. The 25-year PPA is under injunction.

The House also adopted HJR 18-8, authorizing the CNMI to submit the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development action plan for a community block grant application, among other things.

Also adopted was House Commemorative Resolution 18-3 commending and applauding Florentina San Agustin for her service and dedication to veterans in the CNMI.

Bills passed

Besides the pension obligation bond authorization bill, the House passed at least five other bills.

They included Senate Bill 18-21, designating certain government personnel as law enforcement officers to more effectively perform their duties and be provided death benefits, instead of continuing the practice of deputizing these individuals on a need basis.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) offered a floor amendment, later adopted, removing the chief marshal and deputy marshal from the list because they are already designated law enforcement officers under existing laws, while at the same time adding the House and Senate sergeant at arms.

After a lengthy discussion, SB 18-21, House Draft 1 passed by a vote of 19-0. It goes back to the Senate.

New school year to open on Sept. 3

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Public school students on three islands will be going back to school on Sept. 3, based on the new calendar approved by the Board of Education for school year 2013-2014.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., told *Saipan Tribune* that the new calendar maintains the 180 instructional days for all PSS students and dedicates 10 days for school personnel's professional development trainings.

In the first quarter of the school year, classes are scheduled from Sept. 3 through Nov. 8. Students will start their second quarter on Nov. 12 through Jan. 31, 2014, while third quarter is from Feb. 3 through April 9. Instructional days in the last quarter of the year are from April 10 through June 18.

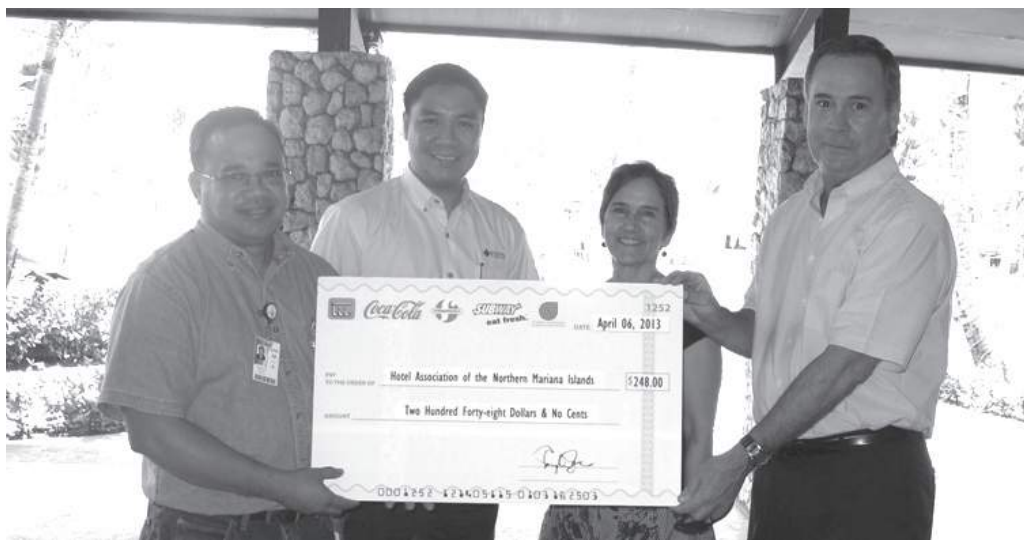
Based on the new calendar, PSS will celebrate Education Month in October 2014, according to Sablan. This is earlier than the usual practice of celebrating the occasion every November of the year. Education Day will be on Oct. 25.

The testing dates for the statewide assessment for elementary was also move up to June 2014 rather than the usual May schedule. The assessment test for secondary is on May 27, while the SAT-10 is scheduled for April 28-30.

The Thanksgiving break will be from Nov. 28 to 29. The Christmas holiday break is scheduled from Dec. 23 through Jan. 3. Spring break is set for April 17 to 22, 2014.

For the Head Start program, the opening of regular classes is on Sept. 9, with a total of 145 instructional days: 54 days for the first quarter; 49 days in the second quarter; and 42 days in the third quarter. Last day of instruction is set on June 4, 2014. Program staff and personnel are slated to undergo 11 days of professional development.

For the Early Intervention program, the first day of classes is on Aug. 28 while the last day of instruction is on June 19.



COKE AND FOREMOST SUPPORT GO-KART FOR A CAUSE

Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc. and Foremost Foods Saipan, Inc. donated to the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana's Annual HANMI Charity Go-kart Race held last month. The race was held to support tourism education. Rusty M. Loyola, left, operations manager for Coca-Cola and Foremost, presented the check to HANMI officials, from second left, Abner Acosta, board member; Marcia Schultz, legal counsel; and Michael Johnson, treasurer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHC nurse writes children's book

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Riza Oledan-Ramos poses with her first book, *The Boy Who Dreamed To Be With His Parents on Saipan.*

A nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center has written a children's book and will hold a book launching on June 1, 2013, at the Joten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe.

Riza Oledan-Ramos said the launching for her first book, *The Boy Who Dreamed To Be With His Parents on Saipan*, will start at 10am and will coincide with the library's 20th anniversary celebration.

Oledan-Ramos, who hails from Leyte, Philippines and finished nursing at Martinez Memorial Colleges in Calooocan City, describes her writing style as very simple.

"Simplicity is what inspires me to write for kids. In writing a children's book I had to choose simple words, simple plots, and simple stories within their grasp of understanding. …Too much adjectives could sometimes lose the real sense of the story," she said.

Oledan-Ramos believes that writing for children is a gift. She tried several times to write for adults but found that she was better at it when writing for kids.

"I am a parent too and I know what reading material is good for my children and when I write I pretend that my kids are my audience."

The Boy Who Dreamed To Be With His Parents on Saipan is an account of a boy named Emmanuel who yearned to reunite with his parents, who both work on Saipan. It also tells of how his extended family in the Philippines cared for him while he waited for that chance to finally rejoin his family.

The book is available at Bestseller Bookstore and in the CNMI Books and Resource Center for $14.95

The Boy Who Dreamed To Be With His Parents on Saipan is also available on Amazon for $14.95 (hardcover) and in digital form through Kindle for $4.95, with English and Spanish versions.

The book was edited by Heather Linday, a former teacher at Grace Christian Academy, with illustration by former Saipan-based artist Dante Guarda.

Oledan-Ramos is married to Ferdinand Ramos, a heavy equipment operator at AIC Marianas. The couple has two children, Fernand Emmanuel, 6, and Ferdinand Jr., 2. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Man allegedly steals pack of crabmeat

A police officer chased and arrested a man who allegedly stole a pack of crabmeat from a store early Monday morning in Garapan.

Police officer JB Cepeda grabbed 22-year-old Yevgeniy Eduardovich Vysochin by the shirt and wrestled him to the ground.

Vysochin was taken to Superior Court yesterday on charges of theft and contempt. His bail was set at $2,500 cash.

Police detective Alexander T. Sakisat stated in his report that Cepeda responded Monday at 3:59pm to a theft incident at the Pretty Market in Garapan.

A male employee told Cepeda that a man, later identified as Vysochin, had asked to use the restroom. After five minutes, Vysochin allegedly walked out with a pack of crabmeat sticking out of his pocket. The employee told the suspect to stop and take the crabmeat out of his pocket.

The suspect ran outside the store, fleeing in the direction of the Shirley's Coffee Shop, toward the Himawari Restaurant in the back.

The employee gave chase but soon gave up because of several dogs in the area. He decided to call police.

Later that day, Cepeda was patrolling Garapan St. at 4:34am when he saw a man that matched the description of the suspect sitting on the road near the Orchid's Poker.

Cepeda got out of the vehicle and called out to the man to approach him. The man replied that he did nothing, then took off running in the direction of D'Elegance Cafe. Despite Cepeda's shout to stop, the suspect continued running. Cepeda finally caught the suspect in front of D' Elegance Café.

The Pretty Market's employee identified the man as the person who stole the crabmeat.

Sakisat said the suspect is on probation for a previous criminal case. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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To apply, students must complete an IT&E application and submit it, along with the other required documents noted above, to the IT&E Human Resource office, located at the IT&E Susupe Headquarters no later than Friday, May 31, 2013. **All inquiries must be made by the student, not the parent.** The student may call 234-6600.

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PROSECUTOR

From Page 1

for comments but he has not been responding.

Abrams filed his expert opinion in federal court on Friday.

Kim retained Abrams to provide expert trial testimony in connection with Kim's racketeering lawsuit against Quichocho. The lawsuit is set for trial this November in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Abrams has over 43 years of professional experience practicing as an attorney specializing in litigation, in both civil and criminal matters, including international arbitration. He said his expert witness report is intended solely for the purpose of litigation in Kim's case.

Quichocho's counsel, Michael Dotts, also filed in federal court on Friday a July 27, 2012, expert report of former police detective and now Rep. Chris D. Leon Guerrero.

Leon Guerrero, then owner of LG Private Investigation Services, stated that it is his opinion that Kim was using a series of corporate entities that she in fact controlled to hide assets from her former husband and the Division of Revenue and Tax.

Leon Guerrero also stated that Kim was using other individuals to accomplish the same purposes of concealing corporate entities.

In his expert witness report, Abrams said the ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 1.8(j) prohibits a lawyer from having sex with his client, whether it was consensual or not.

Abrams conceded that the sex issue may ultimately result in a jury resolving any conflicting testimony of the parties, as Quichocho could deny that anything sexual ever happened between him and his client.

"Yet repeated travels together, sharing hotel rooms and their extensive e-mail chat are persuasive circumstances which should easily make the difference," said Abrams, citing an exhibit in Kim's separate complaint against Quichocho filed in October 2009 in federal court.

Abrams said that Quichocho claims that the Hyatt Hotel in Guam had only one room available to justify his sleeping with Kim, but hotel records showed room availability.

Quichocho also denied advising Kim to enter a commercial lease agreement with him but, according to Abrams, Quichocho's law office itself produced the lease document.

In summarizing his opinion, Abrams said the documentation such as corporate records, executed agreements, sales receipts, etc., irresistibly suggest ethical transgressions by Quichocho.

"In my professional opinion, [Quichocho's] conduct toward [Kim] was decidedly unethical in numerous transactions and pervasive of their personal relationship," he said.

Abrams said he arrived at this conclusion based on the fact that even by giving Quichocho the benefit of the doubt, he appeared to take unfair advantage of his client in repeated transactions where there was an obvious conflict of interests and a long series of sexual improprieties.

This conclusion, he said, is supported by evidence that Quichocho would invite Kim to enter a business transaction with him, such as a lease or setting up a company, then prevail upon her to contribute capital and assets, only to bill her for creating the commercial structure and then require her to perform sexual favors while Kim was being treated with medication to relieve severe emotional depression.

Abrams said that Quichocho arbitrarily billed Kim for $40,000, despite the lack of any underlying fee agreement or substantiation, which is a violation of his professional ethics.

Abrams said MRPC Rule 1.8(a) also prohibits a lawyer from entering a business transaction with a client.

Abrams said to evaluate whether Quichocho created a conflict of interests with Kim, he (Abrams) had mainly to consider a commercial lease agreement dated Oct. 30, 2007, between Quichocho and Kim's company.

If it is established that Quichocho drafted the commercial lease agreement, and it appears that he did, this only compounds the violation if he charged Kim a fee for doing so, Abrams said.

Equally obvious, he said, is the conflict of interest violation by Quichocho in entering a residential lease with Kim's company, dated March 19, 2008.

In April 2008, Abrams said, Quichocho sold Kim a "shell" company, Tan Dingo LLC, which he continued to own and control.

Abrams said for Quichocho to have sold Kim a company, inducing her to buy it on the assurance that she would own and control the entity, never registering her as a controlling shareholder/member/officer and retaining such ownership and control in himself, and his wife, "is both a conflict of interests and, worse yet, sheer fraud."

Abrams said based on his analysis and facts, Quichocho "almost certainly turned a blind eye to his fiduciary obligations to Kim, and the rules against conflicting interests, sexual relations with a client, deception and deceit."

"Attorney Quichocho appears to have become emboldened with his initial success in deceiving his client and became solely motivated by singular greed to the abject exclusion of ethical, moral, or fiduciary concerns," he added.

CRUZ

From Page 1

cho raises concerns whether the attorneys that participated have personal issues against the nominee.

"I see it as unfair," Cruz told reporters yesterday afternoon.

He did say, however, that he will be "fair" and "impartial."

Cruz said if there were complaints about Quichocho, the Bar Association could have done its job looking into these complaints concerning issues years back.

Cruz and Quichocho are cousins.

The Senate EAGI panel chair declined to comment on the estimated 20 percent participation of the Bar Association members. Of some 200 Bar Association members, only 43 participated in the survey to evaluate Quichocho.

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider nominated Quichocho as Superior court associate judge.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked about the Bar Association's evaluation of Quichocho, said the "Bar Association and its members are free to conduct surveys on such matters that relate to their area of profession."

He said the administration recognizes that the Bar has previously conducted similar surveys on past judicial nominees as well as judges who were up for retention.

"Like any nomination that requires the advice and consent of the Senate, there is always the opportunity to hear comments from various sectors and the public in general. This period of receiving feedback from the community is important, especially for the EAGI in their duty to vet executive appointments. There will always be pros and cons, but at the end of the day, the opportunity to hear the sentiments of stakeholders and members of the public serves great measure in enabling those charged with the duty to confirm nominations to make sound decisions," Demapan said.

AGUIGUAN

From Page 1

in any way it can on this plan.

Don Farrell, the Tinian and Aguiguan mayor's chief of staff, said if done the right way, Aguiguan could very well be a sustainable, eco-tourism destination.

"We will look for model development for Aguiguan. The potential is there for Aguiguan to become an eco-tourism destination if handled properly. The island has latte stones [and] was home to [an] ancient Chamorro village," said Farrell, a CNMI historian.

For many years, Aguiguan's natural resources have been untapped. Previous plans to develop the island, including the reopening of a runway for small aircraft, fizzled.

This time around, the Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor's Office is hoping that with the help of public and private stakeholders, the plan would materialize.

Dela Cruz, as well as Tenorio, said environmental and other studies are underway to determine, among other things, Aguiguan's viability as an eco-tourism island.

The mayor expressed optimism that Aguiguan has a huge potential to be a one-of-a-kind destination in the Marianas.

"We are envisioning several bungalows, cottages made of local materials, not hotels, in keeping with the theme of ecological tourism. We would like people visiting the island to really feel one with nature, modern amenities will be kept [to a] minimum," Dela Cruz said.

He said the idea also includes recreating an ancient Chamorro village.

"We would like to know, for instance, what it would take to build cottages and reopen the runway," he added.

Dela Cruz said there have also been Russian and Chinese investors willing to invest on the island's development into a sustainable tourism destination.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Inos administration is interested in learning more about the mayor's proposal.

Dela Cruz and Farrell also said a candidate for PhD at the University of Tennessee, Jessica Welch, is currently doing a study on Aguiguan's sheath-tailed bats.

They said the mayor's office is working with Welch on this study.

The mayor said he plans to visit Aguiguan next week.

SASAMOTO

From Page 1

which equates to a deficiency of $2,687,782. This is audited data," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

CPA is required by its bond indenture to generate revenue equal to all of its operational expenses plus a minimum of 125 percent of required bond payments for the year, both interest and principal.

Sasamoto said he dealt with the fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and the current 2013 periods and, in all those years, CPA complied with all bond requirements and is currently projected to be fully compliant for fiscal year 2013.

In fact, he said, coverage at CPA's airports during his tenure were 1.44 in fiscal year 2009 (a big improvement from 0.19 and negative 0.56); 1.48 in fiscal year 2010; 2.09 (projected) in fiscal year 2011; 3.35 (projected) in fiscal year 2012; and as of the end of the second quarter of fiscal year 2013, 3.25 (projected). CPA went from a deficiency of over $2.6 million to, for example, in fiscal year 2012, to a projected surplus of over $2.9 million in fiscal year 2012, he added.

"This seems like a significant turnaround. CPA's FY 2011 audit is yet to be closed. Thus, the reference to 'projected' rather than 'audited.' In this same period, CPA seaports achieved compliance ratios of 1.36, 1.34, 1.42 (projected), 1.32 (projected), and 1.54 (projected), respectively," he explained.

Sasamoto, on information about the board's dissatisfaction with his performance, said that he will let the numbers and financial progress of CPA speak for itself.

About the possibility of an internal probe, he is confident.

"I can say with much confidence that what is possibly being 'probed' are likely issues that I have brought up during my time here at CPA," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Still grateful for the opportunity given him to serve the agency, Sasamoto said he's content with what he has done and hope the agency continues to progress.

"There was much I wanted to do there, though in reality I was very much limited in this approach as I was only the comptroller of CPA. Either way I am grateful," he said.

Sasamoto's term at CPA will end on June 13.

According to him, he approached his work with the highest standards of "professional due care, with commitment, and full disclosure."

"I have nothing to hide and have always carried myself through life with the utmost respect for people and with objectivity. One thing that I appreciate about my work is that it is all numbers. The numbers are all documented, tested, and confirmed by independent agencies. What I state is not conjecture or assumption, it is facts and these facts can be substantiated and verified through audit reports, financial statements, and reports (which are all public information), and by external agencies that oversee or review CPA," he added.

Increased revenue, reduced expenditure

According to Sasamoto, CPA's airports would not have complied with the bond indenture in fiscal year 2009 if he had not justified to auditors why certain grant revenues should be classified as operational revenues, alluding to the use of passenger facility charge revenues as operating revenues. This created an enormous resource for CPA in terms of bond coverage, which will impact the agency positively into perpetuity, he said. The CNMI essentially revolutionized the way the PFC program is implemented, he added.

He said that CPA operational reserves also hovered between approximately $800,000 and $1.2 million before his tenure.

"During my tenure, CPA operational reserves have grown to over $10 million. If you consider PFC savings, then it is over $13 million. PFC savings have grown significantly during my tenure as well, given that CPA no longer depends on PFC savings to fund operations outside its adopted budgets, unlike in the past. CPA can now 'float' its operations in times of extreme crisis and possesses much needed capital (savings) that it previously did not have for so long," he said.

Sasamoto also gave credit to himself for cutting back the agency's expenses while still meeting all obligations, as well as paying for past obligations that were not met prior to his tenure.

Budgeted operational expenses in fiscal year 2010 totaled $10.93 million. In fiscal year 2011, this went down to $9.6 million (a savings of almost $1.3 million). In fiscal year 2012, operational expenses were further reduced to $9.3 million. These reductions, he said, were the result of proper budgeting and financial planning. As a result of the financial improvements, CPA was recently finally able to extend "across-the-board" incremental salary increases for its employees.

He said the improved coverage, the increasing operational reserves, the prudent financial management, the use of PFC revenues as operating revenues, and other reasons, were cited by Fitch Ratings when it upgraded CPA's credit rating in fiscal year 2011.

In fiscal year 2012, Fitch further modified CPA's airport rating from a stable outlook to positive outlook, citing the continued financial improvements at the agency.

Prior to his tenure, CPA's audit reports also showed questioned costs in terms of federal grant compliance and contained a significant number of findings. Under his tenure, Sasamoto said there have been no questioned costs and the findings have been minimal.

He also disclosed the agency's failure to fulfill its obligations to IRS, which he managed to rectify, along with the penalties, during his tenure. Currently, he said all federal reporting is up-to-date and compliant.

In terms of compliance and preventing waste and abuse, Sasamoto claimed that he instituted various internal control procedures to address issues with vehicle use, fuel use, cell phone use, and inventory, among others.

"The CPA board has made its decision. Though there was neither communication nor explanation as to why the decision was made I must accept it. I do not know what is next for me, but what I do know is that I will continue to hold myself up to professional standards and will always do my best to perform and outperform the objectives of whatever agency/company that hires me. I understand that when given the opportunity, that I have to give back in terms of work production in order to show that I appreciate the opportunity provided to me," he said.

Sasamoto is one of the CNMI scholarship recipients that returned home after completing his education. He earned a bachelor's degree, as well as a master's degree in Business Administration.

MCV BROADBAND

NTT docomo
DOCOMO PACIFIC

May 22, 2013

Dear Valued Customers & Business Partners:

It gives me great pleasure to announce that MCV Broadband is now officially part of the DOCOMO Group.

Backed by Japan's mobile telecommunications leader—NTT DOCOMO, with over 60 million customers—you now have access to industry-leading technology and global resources that will benefit the economies and communities of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

With DOCOMO PACIFIC and MCV Broadband's combined experiences, resources and expertise, you will be able to take advantage of the region's leading providers of mobile telecommunications services, television, Internet and home phone services. All this and much more will soon be available to you at any of our convenient locations.

As we grow, our core commitment remains the same: providing Guam and the CNMI with the best selection of services and products, superb value, and excellent customer service. We will also continue to provide world-class innovations to ensure that our customers enjoy a full range of truly exciting possibilities.

As our valued customers and business partners, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for your patronage and support. We look forward to continue being of service and working with you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jay R. Shedd
President & CEO

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COP barista repeats at Taste of the Marianas competition

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ronnie Guevarra, second from left, topped the 2013 Bartenders Cocktail Competition held Saturday as part of the 15th Annual Taste of Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden. Guevarra is flanked by, from left, coordinator Lito "William" Espino, second runner-up Jay Santos of Zebra Bar, fourth place Rizalina Elchico of Hyatt Regency Saipan, and judge Annamae Adaza, United Filipino Organization president.

Ronnie Guevarra made it back-to-back after winning anew the 2013 Bartenders Cocktail Competition held Saturday as part of the 15th Annual Taste of Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden.

The barista from Coral Ocean Point topped a field of five bartenders in the "Bacardi Superior Mojito Cocktail Challenge" with his Cool Summer Mojito concoction.

The 42-year-old garnered a score 313 to edge Saipan World Resort's Alvin Palma, whose World Mojito gave him a 307 points. Second runner-up was Jay Santos of Zebra Bar (Mellon Mojito), while fourth place was Hyatt Regency's Rizalina Elchico (Green Shadow).

Hyatt's Derol Tudela, GIG Discotheque's Mike Benavente, and Joe's Steakhouse Bar & Grill's Monico Usi made up the rest of the competition at the American Memorial Park grounds.

For winning it all, Guevarra took home a championship trophy, a cellular phone, $150 in cash, and a gift.

Palma got a trophy, $75, and a gift, while Santos received a trophy and a gift.

Guevarra was also named Best in Show and Best Shooter Drink, while Palma earned the judges' nod in the Best in Taste category. Santos won best in props and costume with his samurai outfit.

Guevarra said he still couldn't believe his victory as he was up against other bartending champions.

"I was surprised, because other competitors were previous champions in bartender competitions. I am dedicating this victory first to my family, COP management, the team that supported me, and my friends who were always there to support and cheer for me," he said.

Guevarra's previous wins include GIG's Bar Master Cocktail Competition (August 2006) and No Fear to Flair (2006), Bravo Barista Cocktail Competition (March 2007), Bravo Barista Saipan and Guam Cocktail Competition (July 2007), Taste of the Marianas Skirting Competition (May 2009), and the aforementioned 2012 Taste of Marianas Bartender Competition.

He also represented the CNMI and Guam in the international Bravo Barista Cocktail Competition in Venice, Italy in September 2007.

Gueverra said he always approaches bartending competitions the same way—with complete faith in his ability.

"The secret to my success is my passion. It gives me the burning desire to excel and show my best flaring skills. Passion is the fuel that drives me to compete. Most importantly I enjoy entertaining people by doing bar tricks."

The five contestants were judged based on showmanship (40 percent), taste (25 percent), originality (20 percent), audience impact (10 percent), and neatness (5 percent).

Judging the competition were Mariana Resort & Spa executive chef William Retardo, United Filipino Organization president Annamae Adaza, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan F&B assistant Socorro Huliganga, and Yuichiro's Printing owner Elvira Yuichiro. Flor Miranda and Irene Costales tabulated the results.

Coordinator Lito "William" Espinso congratulated Guevarra and the rest of the participants for another successful staging of the bartending contest. He also thanked the hotel and restaurants that allowed their staff to join the event.

The 2013 Bacardi Superior Mojito Cocktail Challenge was sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority, Duty Free Shoppers Galleria, IT&E, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Coca-Cola, Mariana Resort & Spa Saipan, Systems 4 U, ARMATECH, and UFO. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

JKPL keeps itself relevant in digital age

Despite the advent of tablets, all sorts of handheld readers, and the ubiquitous Internet, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library remains relevant, according to its executive director, John Oliver Gonzales. They have done so by keeping up with the digital times and customizing the library to the needs of the island community.

"We recognize the need to balance 'traditional brick-and-mortar libraries' providing hard copy collections with 'virtual libraries' offering digital titles," said Gonzales.

He assured the library's commitment to continually brand its products and services in order to remain relevant and responsive to the evolving informational needs of the CNMI's increasingly sophisticated, technologically savvy residents, including the children (*famagu'on*), youth (*manhoben*), parents/guardians (*maÒaina*), elderly (*manÂmku'*), and even tourists (*bisita siha*).

"We subscribe to the global initiative and trend of optimizing the information superhighway and bridging the technology and digital divide such that our island community…will reap the benefits and opportunities that come with access to the information age, including the Internet, virtual public spaces, and information technology," said Gonzales.

He said that JKPL will continue to offer the popular free computer classes on Saturdays and weekly, based on the community's demand to learn, register, and participate throughout the entire duration of classes.

It will keep offering digital scanning and copying services at affordable rates. The money raised is then used to defray the cost of replenishing toners, inks, and paper.

JKPL, Gonzales said, will also continue to strengthen its partnership with Motheread, a nationally recognized literacy program under the NMI Humanities Council, in order to augment its collective mission of early childhood and family literacy.

"We have been providing them with a dedicated office with full access to office and technology operations necessary to implement their programs," he said.

In addition, JKPL is also upgrading its IT infrastructure to further the library's collaboration with the Public School System to offer more wireless and DSL connectivity for PSS students' distance education needs.

To this end, JKPL will be offering e-books at all of its three public library branches on Rota (Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Public Library), Tinian (Tinian Municipal Public Library), and at JKPL.

"We are also pleased to say that we have restored valuable e-rate funding through USAC, which defrays 90 percent of our overall annual telecommunications costs at all of our three public library branches of almost $40,000 and we only pay 10 percent or $4,000," he said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
IFB NO.: IFB13-HSEM-121 (A - C)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 12, 2013 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF THREE (3) VEHICLES (A) – PASSENGER VANS (15-17 CAPACITY) (B) 5 DOORS SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE (C) 4 DOORS SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE FOR THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY"

PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS MAY RETRIEVE A COPY OF THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THE INVITATION FOR BIDS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB13-DPS/BSS-126

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 14, 2013 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF OFFICE FURNITURES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – BOATING SAFETY SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BE COME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

S/ JAMES RABAULIMAN
ACTING COMMANDER, BAGS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DPW/ED-118

BID SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 19, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND COMMISSIONING OF AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM FOR OFFICES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND BOARD OF PAROLE ON SAIPAN AND TINIAN AGING CENTER ON TINIAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

THE COMPLETED BID PACKAGE WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MAY 15, 2013** AT THE CNMI ENERGY DIVISION OFFICE – STATE ENERGY OFFICE (SEP) LOCATED ON ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITAL HILL, HOUSE NO. 1337, SAIPAN, MP 96950 OR REQUESTED VIA EMAIL TO **acdpstinianaging@recovery.gov.mp** DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL **QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA E-MAIL TO **acdpstinianaging@recovery.gov.mp** OR FAXED TO (670) 664-4488 NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME ON JUNE 03, 2013. The Contracting Officer will respond to all written inquiries within 5 business days or by June 10, 2013.**

THE COMMONWEALTH WILL ALLOW AND ACCEPT ELECTRONIC BIDDING FROM ALL BIDDERS. FOR ON ISLAND BIDDERS, HARD COPY SUBMISSION ARE PREFERRED. ELECTRONIC BID SUBMITTALS MUST BE E-MAILED TO **procurement@pticom.com** AND BUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN **10:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME, JUNE 19, 2013.**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ VICENTE S. ATTAO
ACTING DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIVISION

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DPW/ED-117

BID SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 19, 2013 • TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND COMMISSIONING OF AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM FOR THE JOETEN-KIYU PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

THE COMPLETED BID PACKAGE WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MAY 15, 2013** AT THE CNMI ENERGY DIVISION OFFICE – STATE ENERGY OFFICE (SEP) LOCATED ON ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITAL HILL, HOUSE NO. 1337, SAIPAN, MP 96950 OR REQUESTED VIA EMAIL TO **acjklibrary@recovery.gov.mp** DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL **QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA E-MAIL TO **acjklibrary@recovery.gov.mp** OR FAXED TO (670) 664-4488 NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME ON JUNE 03, 2013. The Contracting Officer will respond to all written inquiries within 5 business days or by June 10, 2013.**

THE COMMONWEALTH WILL ALLOW AND ACCEPT ELECTRONIC BIDDING FROM ALL BIDDERS. FOR ON ISLAND BIDDERS, HARD COPY SUBMISSION ARE PREFERRED. ELECTRONIC BID SUBMITTALS MUST BE E-MAILED TO **procurement@pticom.com** AND BUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN **9:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME, JUNE 19, 2013.**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ VICENTE S. ATTAO
ACTING DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIVISION

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-DOC-119

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 11, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"CNMI & GUAM PREMIUM RATE REVIEW HARMONIZATION ASSESSMENT & DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

THE COMPLETE RFP PACKET WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MAY 15, 2013** AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. JOHN S. BLANCO, ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE RATE REVIEW OFFICE VIA EMAIL TO **cnmiratereview@commerce.gov.mp** OR BY FAXED TO (670) 664-3067 **NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MAY 31, 2013.**

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ JOHN S. BLANCO
RATE REVIEW OFFICE
RATE REVIEW ADMINISTRATOR

LAND ASSIGNMENT

1. **LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT:** PICTURE ABOVE WITH POKER BUSINESS AND FORMER PIC LAUNDRY
   LAND AREA: 757 SQ.M
   LOCATED AT SAN ANTONIO ACROSS PAKPAK BEACH NEAR PIC HOTEL AND PIC STAFF BARRACKS
2. **LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT:**
   WITH 3 COMMERCIAL UNITS AND HOUSE
   ALL UNITS WITH TENANT
   LAND AREA: 697 SQ. M
   LOCATED AT BEACH ROAD GARAPAN NEXT TO CENTURY INSURANCE BUILDING AND SAIPAN TRIBUNE
3. **LAND ASSIGNMENT:** CONSIST OF 2 LOTS
   LAND AREA: LAND (A): 737 SQ.M **LAND (B):** 779 SQ.M
   LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT
   LOCATED ACROSS 13TH FISHERMAN MONUMENT AND NEXT TO MARAIANAS EYE CLINIC
4. **LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT:** CONSIST OF 2 LOTS WITH 4 COMMERCIAL UNIT, FORMERLY NIKO LAUNDRY AND NIKO MARKET
   AND 3 RESIDENTIAL UNITS
   LAND AREA: LAND (A) 1124 SQ.M, **LAND (B)** 1111 SQ. M
   LOCATED AT SAN ROQUE BEFORE PALM RESORT AND FORMER LA FIESTA
5. **LAND AND HOUSE ASSIGNMENT**
   LAND AREA: 5,000 SQ. M
   LOCATED AT DANDAN NEAR DANDAN GOLF RANGE
6. **LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT**
   LAND AREA: 972 SQ.M
   LOCATED AT KOBLERVILLE NEXT TO ST. JUDE CHURCH AND CYA STORE
7. **HOUSE FOR RENT:**
   1. STUDIO TYPE WITH RESTROOM & KITCHEN:$200/MO
   2. (2) BEDROOM HOUSE WITH RESTROOM & SPACIOUS SALA: $300/MO
   * UTILITIES NOT INCLUDED
   LOCATED IN SAN ROQUE

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL EMER AT 234-1818 OR 287-0693

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Half-day session today at Kagman High

Attention parents and guardians of Kagman High School students: Progress reports will be issued today, Wednesday, May 22, 2013. Kagman High will have a half-day session today. We will release the students at 12pm. There will also be a PTSA meeting today that will begin at 3pm. Progress reports will be issued from 3:30pm to 6pm at the Kagman Elementary School campus. For any questions, contact 237-3907/3834. ***(PR)***

Red Cross sets annual meeting

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross will be conducting its annual meeting on Wednesday, May 29, at 5:30pm at the Chapter office on Airport Road. All Red Cross volunteers, donors and the general public are welcome. The meeting will provide an overview of Red Cross services as well as a recap of the current fiscal year, financial reports and an election of its board of directors. For more information, call the Chapter at 234-3459 or go to www.redcross.org/nmi. ***(ARC)***

Register for NMC's summer session

Registration for NMC's Summer Session will be held on May 22 and 23, 2013, and classes begin on May 28, 2013.

Students are encouraged to enroll in one or more of the 25 courses being offered this summer to help them move closer to completing a degree. Registration for courses is on a first-come, first-serve basis and student advisers will be available during registration to assist with the selection of classes.

To view information about our 2013 Summer Session online, visit www.nmcnet.edu. For questions about the summer session, advising, or registration, email oar@nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498, ext. 1528, 1537, or 1539. ***(NMC)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room starting at 5:30pm. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@cca-marianas.org. ***(CCA)***

MHS, SSHS, and KHS Class of '03 meeting

The Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Kagman High School Alumni Class of 2003 is inviting all classmates to a mandatory meeting on May 24, 2013, at 6:30pm at Tanya Pangelinan's residence in Dandan. On the agenda is the upcoming joint 10th year reunion of 2003 classmates in July.

For more information and/or directions, call Caroline Camacho at 789-3730, Tanya Pangelinan at 483-8428, or Ricky Itibus at 483-7104. We started as one, divided into three, and now let's be reunited as a Class of 2003! ***(PR)***

Notice to MHS parents

To all parents and legal guardians of the Mighty Dolphins of Marianas High School: We will be distributing the 4th Quarter Mid-Progress Report this Thursday, May 23, 2013, from 4pm to 6pm in the MHS Gymnasium. Students will be released at 1pm on this day to allow the school time to prepare for the event.

This Friday, May 24, 2013, there will be no school due to Professional Development for the staff.

If you have any questions, call the Main Office at 237-3206/5. ***(PR)***

Navy training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on May 24 and 25 from 7pm to 9pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '88 meeting on May 23

This is to inform the Marianas High School Class of 1988 that there will be a meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2013, 6:30pm at Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda's residence in As Lito. Your attendance at this meeting is very important as the topic of discussion will be the class' upcoming 25th year silver class reunion. ***(PR)***

CK Head Start notice

For Chalan Kanoa Head Start parents, there will be a free Parent Education Training for parents of children 0 to 5 years old on May 20 to May 31, 2013, starting at 6pm, at the William S. Reyes Elementary School cafeteria. Call Mona at 483-4398 for more information. ***(PR)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Green turtle shot with spear gun

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for information on turtle that was shot with a spear gun.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Injuries to the turtle include open entry and exit wounds to its neck.

On Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at about 5:30pm, tour guides reported a turtle in distress at the Garapan Lagoon, by the Fishing Base dock. Local men found the turtle swimming slowly in circles with a four-foot metal spear sticking through its neck.

The CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement was notified. Responding Fish & Wildlife officers took into custody the injured turtle shortly thereafter. The juvenile green sea turtle, although alive, was unable to swim or dive with the bent four-foot long spear lodged in its neck.

The juvenile turtle was tagged and released. Injuries to the turtle include open entry and exit wounds to its neck, and labored breathing due to possible trachea damage.

Hunting sea turtles is illegal in the CNMI under Public Law 02-51 and they are protected federally under the Endangered Species Act. If anyone has knowledge as to who may have attempted to spear and poach this turtle we ask that you call Crime Stoppers.

The DLNR-DFW Sea Turtle Program needs your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

Prayer to St. Rita

O Holy Patroness of those in need, St. Rita, whose pleadings before thy Divine Lord are almost irresistible, who for thy lavishness in granting favors hast been called the Advocate of the Hopeless and even of the Impossible; St. Rita, so humble, so pure, so mortified, so patient and of such compassionate love for thy Crucified Jesus that thou couldst obtain from Him whatsoever thou askest, on account of which all confidently have recourse to thee, expecting, if not always relief, at least comfort; be propitious to our petition, showing thy power with God on behalf of thy suppliant; be lavish to us, as thou hast been in so many wonderful cases, for the greater glory of God, for the spreading of thine own devotion, and for the consolation of those who trust in thee. We promise, if our petition is granted, to glorify thee by making known thy favor, to bless and sing thy praises forever. Relying then upon thy merits and power before the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we pray thee that *(here mention your request)*.

ST. RITA

Wife, Mother, Widow, Nun

St. Rita was born in Umbria, Italy, about the year 1386, and died at Cascia, in the year 1456. Being the daughter of parents who were advanced in years, she met with much opposition when she let it be known of your intention of becoming a nun. Yielding to her parents desires, she married a cruel man. After converting him from his wicked ways, he was murdered by criminals. Left alone in the world, she applied several times for admissions into the Augustinian convent in Cascia.

Every application was refused, and God Himself cleared away all obstacles and she entered the convent, made her profession and lived the life of a holy and devout religious for forty-two years, "a shining example of every Christian virtue, pure as a lily, simple as a dove, and obedient as an angel." That "God is wonderful in His saints" is easily proven in the life of St. Rita.

On one occasion Rita requested a rose to be brought to her from her garden at Porena in the middle of winter. The rose was found in full bloom. At another time, she asked for a fig, and the same was found.

The reports of these wonders spread far and wide and people flocked to the convent from all parts of the world, only to receive in return for their faith in God through the prayers of Rita many spiritual and earthly favors. Because of the great number of miracles made possible by St. Rita, she is often called "The Saint of the Impossible."

Knights and Alumknights give back to MCS

After Mount Carmel School's bi-weekly Mass yesterday, students and alumni of the school, referred to as Knights and AlumKnights respectively, gave back to their school with a number of generous gifts.

Representatives of the Class of 1993 came forward first to announce their upcoming gift to the school, a swing set as part of a larger playground set that the school will expand next school year. The gift was announced by 1993 AlumKnight Carol Chargualaf, who spearheaded her class' fundraising efforts earlier this year with the successful Laf All Knight fundraiser at Naked Fish Bar and Grill. The gift was presented as part of their class reunion activities.

AlumKnights from the Class of 2003 came forward next with the announcement of their gift, which is also part of their class reunion activities. 2003 AlumKnight Ray Muna announced that his class has been raising funds and will continue fundraise in order to contribute toward the school's scholarship fund.

After AlumKnights presented their awards, school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero called forward current students to present their awards. On behalf of the National Junior Honor Society, NJHS president Michael Ortizo announced that the Immaculate Heart Chapter of the NJHS would use its funds to donate a statue of Mother Mary for the school's various celebrations, including the annual May Crowning celebration.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Edong Elenzano begins work on one of the class gifts, a mural commemorating the school as the "Home of the Knights."

After NJHS, the 8th grade class came forward to present its gift. Class president Youjin Jun announced that his class was funding the painting of a mural in the high school building behind the piano that would commemorate the school as the Home of the Knights. The mural is being painted by acclaimed local artist, MCS adjunct art instructor, and MCS parent Edong Elenzano.

Finally, the Senior Class of 2013 was called up to present its gift, which was inspired by some seniors' visit to the Mother Mary Grotto at the University of Notre Dame last week as part of the school's participation in the 2013 National High School Mock Trial Competition. Class president Anastasia Schweiger announced that the class would donate funds to build lighting for the school's Mother Mary Grotto along the high school driveway. That way, the grotto could be seen at night.

Deleon Guerrero also announced that the grotto lighting project was part of a broader plan to expand the grotto. ***(PR)***

'Govt has not paid $953,645 in overdue deficiency balance'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's computed overdue balance of $953,645.83 as of May 15, 2013, remains unpaid by the CNMI government, according to Fund counsel Daniel J. Berman yesterday.

In his declaration filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Berman said that between May 1 and May 9, 2013, assistant attorney general Reena Patel, via email, kept Fund trustee *ad litem* counsel Brad Huesman apprised of the checks remitted by the Department of Finance.

"These email updates, however, did not apprise of DOF's calculation of the overdue deficiency balance," Berman said.

Last May 8, acting Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan disclosed that since the April 19, 2013, status conference in federal court, Finance has already delivered to the Fund 10 checks totaling $1,287,608.93.

Following the April 19 status conference, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood issued a written order directing Finance Secretary Larissa Larson to work with Pangelinan to determine whether there is a shortage in the allotments owed the Fund.

The judge further directed Larson to transfer to the Fund by April 23, 2013, any money owed that is not in dispute.

In his declaration on Monday, Berman said the Fund has exhausted its efforts to bring the shortage issue elsewhere for resolution.

The Fund, Berman said, contacted Finance directly, as well as through the Office of the Attorney General by representation, to have this balance agreed upon or determine reasons for any dispute.

Berman disclosed that, on April 18, 2013, the Fund, through its trustee *ad litem*, brought the matter of the deficiency balance to the attention of settlement judge Robert Faris for review and assistance.

On behalf of the Fund, he said he sent a letter dated May 10, 2013, to the Office of the Attorney General, asserting that $953,645.82 would be overdue as of May 15, 2013.

Berman said the OAG replied on May 17, 2013, by asserting, among other things, that Finance does not agree with the Fund's balance and that Finance needs more time.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
INTERIOR PLANT SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-13

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals from interested plant nurseries, suppliers, firms or individuals for the supply, service and maintenance of Interior (indoor) Plants at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing interior plants for a period of two (2) years as detailed in the Scope of Work. The proposal package which includes the scope of work and evaluation factors will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on May 20, **2013**. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to the **RFP** shall take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Interior Plant Service and Maintenance**. One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, June 28, 2013**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated on the following factors: (1) price, (2) ability to supply plants and (3) relevant experience.

Proposer will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request For Proposals: or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibilities in any act of omission on the part of offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This **RFP** does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offeror will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/S/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: 05/20/13

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Betty I. Verano Petitioner,	)	**FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0170**
vs.	)	
Domingo B. Verano Respondent.	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 500641, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 12th day of April, 2013.

/s/ Clerk of Court

LAW OFFICES OF TIMOTHY H. BELLAS, LLC
Cactus St. & Botones Ave.
P.O. Box 502845
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: 323-2115 •Fax: 323-2116
Email: timothy@bellaslawfirm.com

ATTORNEY FOR:
Petitioner Guadalupe A. Flores

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF, EDWARD W. FLORES. Deceased.	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0181**

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on the 18th day of June, 2013, at 1:30 p.m., Petitioner, GUADALUPE A. FLORES, will petition the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, on Saipan, to be appointed as Administratrix of the Estate of EDWARD W. FLORES, decedent, when and where all persons interested in said Estate may appear and object to said appointment.

2. NOTICE is also hereby given to all creditors, heirs and any person having any interest in or claim against the Estate of EDWARD W. FLORES, deceased, to file any claim they may have with the Commonwealth Superior Court or with Timothy H. Bellas, attorney for Petitioner, at P.O. Box 502845, Saipan, MP 96950, within sixty (60) days after the date of first publication of this Notice.

Dated this 17th day of April, 2013.

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court
Commonwealth Superior Court

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 22, 2004

SIS student tops essay contest

Sam Nepaial of the Saipan International School beat out 35 other contestant from eight schools across the CNMI in the recently concluded essay contest for 5th graders sponsored by the Pet Assistance and Welfare Services, or PAWS. The essay contest, held as part of celebrations for Be Kind To Animals Week, is an annual activity for all 5th graders in the CNMI. The essays were judged on content and quality. There were 35 entries from eight different schools. Nepaial is a student of Miss Chargaris. Second place went to Crystal S. Marciano at Garapan Elementary School (Mr. Pinkerton). Honorable mentions were awarded to Melyna Luzama at Tanapag Elementary School (Ms. Babauta), Frannie Bermudes at Garapan Elementary School, and Christin Huer and Hannah Park, both of Saipan International School.

Babauta to head to DC for stateless issue

Gov. Juan N. Babauta is tentatively scheduled to leave for Washington D.C. on May 30 to discuss with the U.S. House of Representatives the stateless issues affecting more than 200 individuals in the Commonwealth. Legal counsel Steve Newman disclosed this, saying that preparations and other immediate matters are now being attended to. Newman said at present, the list of individuals claiming to be stateless is undergoing authentication and verification at the CNMI Records Office to ensure that all documents to be submitted to the office of U.S. Rep. Dan Burton are certified and reviewed.

May 22, 2005

'Education industry still best'

Office of Insular Affairs economist Wali Osman still believes that education programs similar to the aborted Pacific Gateway project are the most ideal for the CNMI. In his remarks during the Marianas Roundtable dinner reception Friday, Osman said that education is an area "that deserves serious consideration." He said there are also opportunities in telecommunication, film and movie making, health and wellness facilities and services. "However, I think the area that deserves serious consideration is to think of making the CNMI, especially Saipan, a training center for this important region. By this, I mean what was known as the 'Pacific Gateway.' The initiative of the Northern Marianas College some time ago may open the path to a knowledge industry that, with careful nurturing, can develop into a major source of income for the Commonwealth," said Osman.

Pete A: Let's bring our children back

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio called on local leaders to come together and strategize on how to stop the exodus of local professionals, especially young people, from the islands in pursuit of greener pastures elsewhere. "The CNMI is suffering from brain drain, a chronic condition caused by a lack of employment and opportunities for our young people," said Tenorio in his 2005 report to the CNMI Legislature Thursday. He blamed this phenomenon on the lack of jobs in government and low pay in the private sector. The private sector pays a minimum of $3.05 per hour since 1996.

May 22, 2006

Legislation proposed to allow CUC to borrow $40M from Fund

Legislation has been proposed in the House of Representatives to allow the cash-strapped Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to borrow $40 million from the Retirement Fund. Authored by Rep. Crispin M. Ogo, House Bill 15-132 would authorize the Fund to provide the CNMI government with a $40-million loan for the improvement of utility services. H.B. 15-132 also seeks to establish a sinking fund to guarantee the CNMI government's repayment of the loan. "This bill was proposed by the administration to finally address the power generation issues on Rota, Tinian and, most especially, on Saipan," Ogo said in an interview Friday. Ogo is the chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Labor sanctions Rifu Apparel Corp. to pay $245 for tardiness

The Department of Labor has sanctioned Rifu Apparel Corp. for filing 49 days late a renewal application for its guest worker. Labor hearing officer Jerry Cody ordered Rifu Apparel to pay $245 in sanction to the CNMI Treasury within 10 days. Cody said any failure of Rifu to comply with the order may result in the imposition of further sanctions against the company in an amount to be determined at a future hearing.

Guam Guard confirms death of 2 soldiers in Afghanistan

The Department of Defense officially announced yesterday the death of two soldiers in Afghanistan who were serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The two soldiers were killed on May 16, in the country's capital city of Kabul, when their convoy was attacked by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

"We can now confirm that there was an incident involving two soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment in Afghanistan, assigned as Task Force Guam, working as part of the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, International Security Assistance Force, which supports the government of Afghanistan in developing and sustaining the Afghan National Security Forces," said Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, The Adjutant General for the Guam National Guard.

Killed were Sgt. Eugene M. Aguon of Mangilao and SPC Dwayne W. Flores of Sinajana.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of our warriors. They are members of our Guam Guard family, so it is a deep and heart-rending loss for all of us. Although both were very young, based on what I have heard from others who knew them personally, they were also very involved in their communities and in their parish. They will most certainly be missed, but I know their memories will be treasured by many for a long time," said Paulino.

"Rest assured that I have already committed all the resources necessary to take care of the immediate needs of the families of our fallen and injured soldiers, as they go through this difficult time. And we are assisting in the process to bring them back home to us as soon as possible," assured Paulino.

LTC Michael Tougher, commander of the 1-294th IN RGT, said, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of our fallen Guam brothers. Our primary focus at this time is to provide the best possible support to the families and colleagues of Sgt. Aguon and SPC Flores. They were serving in support of the NATO mission helping to ensure Afghan-led security and stability in Afghanistan for generations to come. Their sacrifices will never be forgotten."

"The soldiers of Task Force Guam deeply mourn the loss of two of our brothers. However, we will not allow our sorrow to deter us in the performance of our mission," he added.

Two soldiers also suffered minor injuries in the attack. They were SFC Peter J. Crisostomo and SPC John F. Chargualaf. Both have returned to the unit.

All four soldiers belong to Echo Company, 1-294th IN RGT.

The battalion of almost 600 soldiers became Task Force Guam when they took over the mission in Afghanistan almost a month ago. The unit expects to complete their mission and return to Guam sometime early next year. ***(Guam National Guard)***

An Army carry team, carries the transfer case containing the remains of Army Cpl. Dwayne W. Flores of Sinajana, Guam, upon arrival at Dover Air Force Base, Del. on Saturday, May, 18, 2013.

May 31 is deadline to file statement of financial interest

The Office of the Public Auditor is reminding all Commonwealth public officials and employees who are required to file a statement of financial interest for calendar year 2012 under the Government Ethics Code Act of 1992 that the deadline for filing a verified statement of financial interests is May 31, 2013. Any person failing to comply with the financial disclosure requirements is subject to penalties as set forth in 1 CMC Section 8517 through Section 8522 and 1 CMC Section 8571 through Section 8576, including a $10 per day penalty for periods of delinquency.

For more information, contact the Office of the Public Auditor at telephone numbers 322-6481/2, fax number 322-7812, or e-mail address: mail@opacnmi.com. You may also visit OPA's website at www.opacnmi.com for information about filing requirements. ***(OPA)***

Job Vacancy Announcement
Audit Manager (1)

Open: May 13, 2013
Closed: May 27, 2013
FLSA Status: Exempt

The CNMI Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is looking for an Audit Manager. Detailed information about the qualification requirements for the position and employment application may be obtained at the OPA website: http://www.opacnmi.com.

Interested applicants must submit all the required information by mail, email, or hand delivery at the office/email addresses listed below. Submission must be marked confidential and must have the applicant's name and returned address.

Office of the Public Auditor
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill
P.O. Box 501399, Saipan MP 96950
Email: mail@opacnmi.com

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Vacancy No. 13-032 **Opening Date:** Thursday, May 16, 2013
Closing Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS TECHNICIAN

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs a wide variety of routine to moderate level fiscal support activities to include: verifying daily transactions processed by others; editing and posting daily transactions; preparing change fund at bank; preparing certification of completion of services; entering NSF checks; preparing billing cycles; reviewing tampered accounts; and, preparing billing adjustments. Generates, reviews and distributes reports. Maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to customer complaints. Perpares response letters to customers. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIVISION, SAIPAN.

POSITIONS: Six (6).

SALARY: $7.28 - $9.34 per hour.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D., and three years work experience. Preferred requirement: Experience in the hospitality industry, customer service, bookkeeping and/or fiscal support. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal and writing skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Vacancy No. 13-033 **Opening Date:** Thursday, May 16, 2013
Closing Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Financial Accounting Specialist or his/her designee. Performs a wide variety of routine fiscal support activities to include: receiving and processing payments; issuing receipts; preparing daily deposit slips; opening new accounts; closing credit cards; verifying and processing payroll; running automatic credit card payments; posting invoices; preparing checks; preparing refunds; and, preparing charge vouchers. Generates and distributes routine reports. Maintains filing systems. Performs customer service, administrative and receptionist activities to include assisting customers with applications, payments and in settling disputes. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION(S): Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $5.90 - $7.25 per hour.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): Two (2).

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School (AS) diploma through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program. Preferred requirement: A year's experience in the hospitality industry, customer service, bookkeeping and/or fiscal support. Knowledge of: Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Cash handling and bank deposit procedures. Skill in: Providing customer service; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal and writing skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisors, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Vacancy No. 13-034 **Opening Date:** Thursday, May 16, 2013
Closing Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013

METER READER

DUTIES: The incumbent in this position will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his or her designee. Responsibilities and duties include but are not limited to: Reads electric and water meters, performs service investigations. Operates government vehicles; conducts basic vehicle inspections to ensure they are in proper working order, operates handheld meter reading device. Prepares and submits deficiency or problem reports on meters. Assists other departments in finding customer locations and with service verifications. Locates new customers and ensures customers are hooked up and added to the system. Replace meters as required and performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIVISION, ***SAIPAN.***

POSITIONS: Four (4).

SALARY: $5.90 - $12.13 per hour.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D., and two years work experience. Knowledge of: Customer service techniques; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Reading maps; Operating vehicles; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Prepare reports; Communication, interpersonal and writing skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 101

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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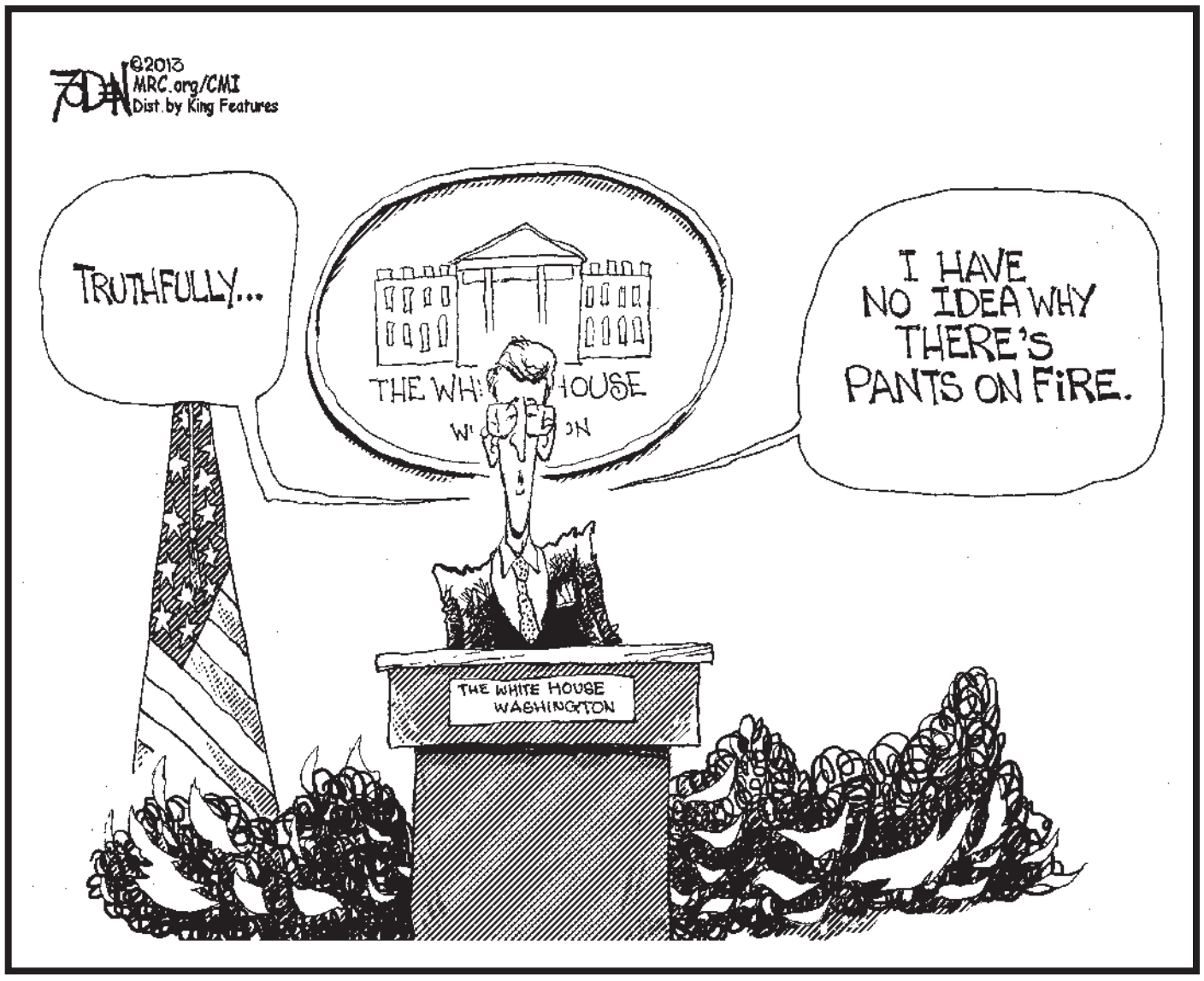
MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association



Urban green

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.

We look down from the eleventh floor of the Friendship Villa residence of foreign faculty members and students to a four-story building that stands between us and the six-lane traffic near Shenyang Aerospace University's south gate. We lamented last year's start of construction when what used to be a grass-covered lot the size of a football field fronting our building suddenly got the whole complement of earthmovers, scoopers, bulldozers, cement mixers, and two towering cranes that moved workloads around.

That would have been about the time our Belgian teacher colleague handed us a paper cup with water and a floating sliver of grass that, he said, "will thrive without requiring much attention."

We decided that we would at least add plants to our window ledge and get some oxygen processed back into the air. We have since expanded our repertoire of greens and have made the tending of them an integral part of our daily play-attention exercise.

Work stopped at the construction site over the winter, allowing for the cement to mature, and this week, the crane started moving again. Styrofoam was laid on the rooftop covered with what we thought from a distance as black tar. I assumed the addition would control indoor climate in insulating the building from the six months of cold as the heat-absorbent black tar blankets the warmth inside.

The construction that includes two five-story towers at the south gate blocks traffic but the ever enterprising Chinese students always manage to find a short cut, if they have to down a temporary fence to create one, so we follow the beaten path when we exit by foot from the dorm to the road.

Cutting across construction yesterday revealed that the "black tar" on the roof is actually rich loam of soil spread over the Styrofoam to grow a rooftop lawn and garden. WOW. Not that it should have surprised us. After all, we are a new satellite city and planners often get extra credit for adding a touch of urban green into their plans.

Which is just as well. The garden aesthetics will make the new building tolerable for we note that buildings in China are not built to last a century. They tend to deteriorate fast. The dilapidating University Design Department building two blocks west of us have Byzantine features, possibly a leftover from the days when Marushka with the *babushka* and Boris with the *shapka-ushanka* helped design campus structures. It will soon come down.

We do not have any complaints with the systemic green care of the common grounds as workers these spring transfer potted plants of yellow carnation and marigold, tulip and daffodil, lily and gardenia, iris and violet into planters along the pathways and the road. We already noted the instant forest that is by the soccer field in anticipation of the athletes' practice during August's China Games.

It is our care indoor that need some attention, not just by the hired maintenance help but the "stakeholders," the ones who use the buildings, the offices, and the classrooms.

I recall former PSS Commissioner Liz Rechebei saved for us from her yard a dozen seedlings of *ilang-ilang* while we taught at SVES, which we grew on a hallway corner before transplant-

See URBAN on Next Page

Embracing technological change

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The NMI has honed its casual behavior of "mañana" in basically everything it has done for the last 37 years. Apparently, it seems negligent on substantive issues that matter the most. It includes shoving aside critical review of its vertical system—top down management—to see if it's still effective in helping people in the receipt of public services.

Professor Stephen Goldsmith, Daniel Paul Professor of the Practice of Government and director of Innovations in American Government Program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, wrote an essay that I find timely to share with you on this issue:

"Digital systems are replacing paper ones; data analytics, cloud computing, and data mining can combine and examine data in disparate systems; handheld devices allow field workers to solve problems independently and collectively; and social networking allows citizens to participate in problem solving in new and dramatic ways.

"Technology can now renew citizen engagement, allow employees to work across their verticals, and facilitate the work of data collection.

"We can and will see real results when straightforward changes occur in how government engages its own workforce, regulates the marketplace, involves the private sector and incorporates the wisdom of its citizens."

At the grassroots level

Professor Goldsmith wrote about old vertical hierarchies, specifically, why it needs to give way to a horizontal world.

Said he, **"**Life happens horizontally: We solve problems and experience life by managing resources and issues influenced by the multiple individuals and groups that make up our daily lives. But no one understands it better than lower-income recipients of public benefits. For instance:

"A single mother with two children, living in a low-income neighborhood, experiences similar concerns to other mothers, albeit it in a much more challenging way. She needs to provide education and healthcare for her children and find a job that pays enough to put food on the table. She needs to find some way to get to work, the store or doctor, all while keeping an eye on her children.

"In this example, the mother most likely applies for essential benefits, such as income support payments, food stamps, temporary aid to needy families and Medicaid, through multiple agencies that have different rules and procedures. For help finding a job that pays better or a training program to improve her skills, she goes to yet another agency that has no records from the many agencies already serving her. Her children might be enrolled in other programs or receive additional services through their schools, which creates another layer of complexity and challenges. If they find themselves under the care of juvenile or child welfare authorities, things only become more complicated."

He noted the many winding paths of the complicated eligibility road for most folks on social services programs. "Government produces hundreds of uncoordinated, activity-based programs, each aimed at mitigating individual issues, rather than weaving together resources in order to produce solutions. Over the years, government agencies have created vertical programs ill-suited to the increasingly horizontal world in which we live and work. Most government inefficiency and waste can be traced back to this fundamental problem.

"People live in many communities, digital and real, with multiple influences that are not easily altered by a single government program. Hierarchies are collapsing in favor of networks, etc. No matter how much we increase funding for public programs, large bureaucracies cannot be responsive to taxpayer needs without changing their underlying structure."

A misguided view of service

"Big government's vertical myopia finds its roots in a simpler time when the definition of professionalism applauded the development of technical skills that delivered responses to specific public problems. Today, government's modus operandi assumes that technically proficient public employees applying prescriptive rules can find the right solutions to public problems.

"The status quo in government privileges this form of top-down decision making over the common-sense wisdom of working with, or listening to, citizens and their communities to fashion the best solution. Simply put, government will be more effective when it evidences its humility by allowing more demand-side choices and prescribing fewer supply-side answers. When public sector professionals operating within programmatic lines replace consumers, innovation struggles.

"The same principle applies to devolved authority: reducing

See EMBRACING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

NMDs speak out against planned use of Pagan

Editor's Note: The following is NMDC Resolution 2013 -01 that was recently adopted by the Northern Marianas Descent Corp., a non-profit chartered corporation, to oppose the U.S. military's planned use of Pagan in the Northern Islands.

Third part of a series

Whereas, the U.S. military is materially responsible for the irreparable damage to the land and surrounding terrestrial and marine terrestrial environments and native Hawa'ians' ancestral homelands from the residual U.S. military training exercises' impacts to the environment of Kahoolawe where the U.S. military buried unexploded bombs and shells, essentially turning the island into bare rock from decades of U.S. military bombardment and continues to date to devastate vast stretches of Pohakuloa Training Area on the Big Island and Schofield Ranges on Oahu by bombing and shelling in the State of Hawai'i; and

Whereas, during the U.S. Naval Administration of Saipan and Tinian, the Chamorros and Carolinians were restricted to certain areas on the island of Saipan not used or occupied by the U.S. Navy for administrative operations, housing, school, hospital, and recreation activities. The Chamorros and Carolinians were restricted access to their sacred cultural and recreational grounds and adjacent areas, such as Micro Beach, San Antonio Beach, Susupe Beach, Navy Hill, Marpi, Capital Hill, and Kagman. This deliberate restriction ended only in the early 1960's when the U.S. Naval Administration of Saipan and Tinian was transferred to the Trust Territory government. Under the new administration, the Chamorros and Carolinians were allowed to travel and have the freedom to visit other areas on Saipan previously restricted by the U.S. Naval Government. This was how it was during the Naval Administration, an awful experience that shall not be allowed to happen again; and

Whereas, in accordance with Federal Register's NOI/*Vol. 78. No. 50/Thursday, March 14, 2013/Notices 16257 (Notice)*, in part mentioned the most alarming statement regarding Pagan Island: The U.S. military intends to use the entire island with a full spectrum of weapons and joint training activities." The U.S. military has publicly made known its interest in the islands north of Saipan is to establish a series of live-fire and maneuver Range and Training Areas (RTAs) within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to meet this purpose. (*Clearly, this Notice is referring to the island of Pagan*). RTA's Require Continuous and Uninterrupted training schedule for U.S. Forces and U.S. Allies and Combined-Level Training of the ENTIRE Island of Pagan for U.S. military activities. Existing Department of Defense RTAs and support facilities in the Western Pacific, particularly those in the Mariana Islands, are insufficient to support the Pacific Command (PACOM) Service Components' U.S. Code Title 10 training requirements for the region. The expansion of existing RTAs and construction of new RTAs will satisfy identified training deficiencies for PACOM forces that are based in or regularly train in the CNMI. These RTAs will be available to U.S. forces and their allies on a continuous and uninterrupted schedule. These RTAs are needed to support ongoing operational requirements, changes to U.S. force structure and geographic positioning of forces, and U.S. training relationships with allied nations.

The Notice further mentioned that: The U.S. military is charged with upholding the U.S. Constitution, defending the United States from all enemies foreign and domestic, and honoring commitments made in treaties and other international agreements. In particular, five of the seven treaties of mutual defense involve the Western Pacific. In order to accomplish these missions, Title 10 of the U.S.C. requires the Services to maintain, train and equip combat ready forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas. Modern warfare and security operations are complex undertakings, and U.S. military personnel must train regularly to maintain the necessary skills required to accomplish their constitutional and statutory mandates.

Furthermore, it mentioned that: The Mariana Islands' strategic location in the PACOM AOR (U.S. Pacific Command Area of Responsibility) makes the Mariana Islands a prime location to support forces throughout the AOR.

Furthermore, it mentioned that: Preliminary alternative are the improvement, development, and use of existing and new military training areas on the islands of Tini'an and Pagan, to include surrounding U.S. and international water and airspace. With regards to Tini'an, preliminary alternatives for unit level training consider laydowns with and without relocating the IBB Voice of America facility. To date, all Tini'an preliminary alternatives requires the use of all U.S. military leased land, including that which has been leased back to the CNMI Government for agricultural uses. For Pagan, all the preliminary alternatives for combined-level training propose using the entire island for military purposes.

To be continued.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Talaabwogh Little Falcons protest alleged forfeiture

The Talaabwogh Little Falcons are protesting the alleged forfeiture assessed against the team on April 21, 2013 due to the following reasons:

- Lack of notice regarding change in game schedule
- Lack of authority to assess forfeiture

On Sunday, April 21, the Talaabwogh Little Falcons (9-1) were scheduled to play the Survivors (3-8) at 3pm; however, on the same day, they were informed at 12:35pm that there was a change in schedule and were due to play at 11am. The chief umpire who was present at the baseball field on April 21 incorrectly and without authority assessed the Talaabwogh Little Falcons with a "game forfeiture" on the basis that they did not have any players on the field at 11am. This decision has great implications on the team whose record—9 wins-1 loss—places them in first place and in a position to be crowned the 2013 Pennan Champions as all the other teams have at least 2 losses on their record.

Although the team had brought the issue within days after the assessed forfeiture, and despite the team's efforts to resolve this issue amicably, including meeting with the board to discuss the protest, there still has been no decision made by the Saipan Little League board regarding this matter. Rather, a couple of the board members present at the meeting which took place on May 20, 2013, were rude and unprofessional, including walking out without addressing the issue presented to them by the team's manager, coach, and volunteer members. Their actions are unbecoming of the Saipan Little League board.

Time is of the essence. Playoff games are scheduled to take place this week and no decision has been made. The young players who have fought and played hard to be in the top spot are being robbed of the Pennant Championship title. They have endured seven months of intense training and discipline, and deserve to be the top team in a field of 16. They have proven it and earned it, and to have it taken away because of a decision that was clearly wrong and unsupported by the Little League's 2013 baseball official regulations and playing rules and the Saipan Little League, Inc.'s adopted local ground rules, bylaws, and even the league's constitution, is unfair. In a league that preaches to kids to "play fair" as stated in the Little League Pledge, it is incumbent upon the board to exemplify the values of fairness, integrity, responsibility, and leadership by doing the right thing and reverse the alleged "forfeiture."

Manny N. Evangelista
Manager, Talaabwogh Little Falcons

Nomination to Superior Court bench

I read about attorney Ray Quichocho receiving a flunking rating from the local bar members on his nomination to fill a vacant associate judge seat at the Superior Court. If the assessment of this person comes from persons of the profession here in the CNMI who know and have documented unprofessional dealings with the nominee, then I would think that that evaluation would stand as valid, credible, reliable, and testament of this nominee's qualification to sit in the Superior Court bench. Let this situation at this point rest and spare the people of the CNMI from entering and participating in the process of finding popular reasons for or against the nomination of this person.

On the other hand, why is it that nomination to offices like the judgeship in the Superior Court or Supreme Court only comes from the elitist members of the social stratum here in the CNMI? Would it be unusual for a layperson to submit a nomination of a person to the powers that own this appointment process in the CNMI government? Can I as a citizen of the CNMI make a nomination to the people of the CNMI or the appointing authority in the Legislature? Assuming that I can or I can't, it would not hurt if I make a nomination, and leave the rest for those who (in government or outside government) are interested making it happen.

So with this in mind, I would like to nominate attorney Robert C. Torres for the position of associate judge at the Superior Court. I submit this nomination as a citizen of the CNMI and having personal knowledge of this fine and respectful person and attorney of the island of Saipan.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Welcome to USCIS

I would like to welcome the presence of USCIS here on Saipan because it is about time that we get rid of our prejudices and biases. Also, this will lead Saipan in the direction of Guam and Hawaii and we will become like these two territories.

During the time when the CNMI controlled its immigration affairs, there were lots of cookies, happy journeys, coffees, bread, and butter. But as we look today, the sweet old days of the past have come to a complete end. Anyone who thinks about turning back the time to where it was is just imagining things because we already blew our chance.

The time has come to welcome the USCIS to the CNMI with all due respect and recognition. Ladies and gentlemen of USCIS, welcome to the CNMI.

Martin M. Sakisat
Garapan, Saipan

URBAN

From Page 10

ing them into the ground. I know of at least four of them that survived; at the time, the plantings were intended for aesthetics and fragrant flowers, as Saipan can be naturally green if we do not mess up Mother Nature too much.

It is altogether different in cold Dong Bei. Keeping our ledge on the 11th floor green with potted plants is an exercise in intentionality as the doing itself becomes a part of our "spiritual" exercise. No, we are not talking about fuzzy-hairy weird religious practice here. We are referring to the human practice of paying attention to one's consciousness, the same that we prescribe in our oral English classes where students are enabled to "describe their sense experience, express their feelings, articulate their thoughts, and formulate their intentions."

The spirit exercise in this case is the silence before the spoken word. Specifically, on the eleventh floor, I have a cutting board where I chop fruit (e.g., mango, orange, banana) and vegetable (e.g., cucumber, carrot, cabbage) peelings while doing my inhaling and exhaling rhythm, then pulp and dry all the organic leftovers by hand, the fruits providing pleasant scents in the room, mix and compost the lot into the soil that we keep for potted plants. We get our composting and *tai chi* done in a half hour!

Fourteen time zones away on the other side of the planet, in my former home Uptown in Chicago, residents of the GreenRise Intentional residential community in the old eight-story Kemper Insurance building on 4750 North Sheridan Rd. are keeping the place urban green by Chicago standards. A 20-year-old resident just won a grant to develop the building's roof gardens; this, while the roof also will be outfitted with renewable energy panels.

We are clear that there is no stopping climate change in a planet whose humans consume 1.5 times more than old Gaia's holding capacity. We will be content with adaptation measures, whether in Shenyang, Saipan, or the north shores of Lake Michigan. The systemic care is a function of our politics; individual care is a function of our spirit exercises.

Om!

EMBRACING

From Page 10

top-down, vertical rule making will also encourage entrepreneurial city and state officials to innovate. Top-down decisions, cascading across state and local lines, can squeeze out yet more creative local responses and reduce citizens to passive objects of the state, depriving them of active participation in solving their own problems. This unintended arrogance is built into the very fabric of vertical public life."

Is the issue one that we could critically review so delivery of services is effectively extended to all consumers? After all, your existence pertains to their needs, true?

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

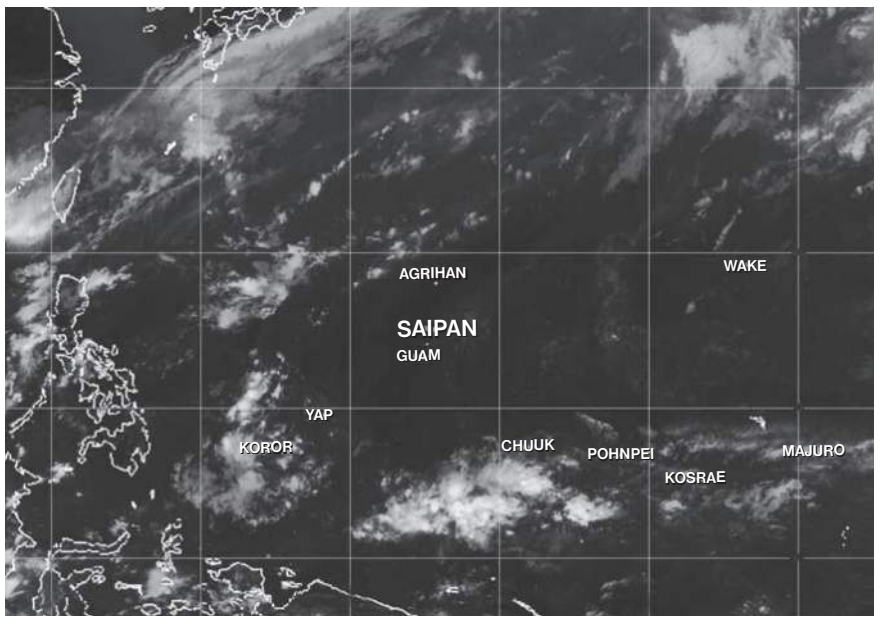
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲90	▼81
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼76
Yap	Sunny	▲92	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲63	▼58
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼58
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲82	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼70
London	Showers	▲59	▼45
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼82
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲58	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲84	▼74
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼66
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼62
Paris	Cloudy	▲60	▼48
Pusan	Sunny	▲75	▼60
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲70	▼58
Salem	Rain	▲53	▼43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼48
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼57
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼64
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼71

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Convergent southwest winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the Marianas and Okinawa or within 100 miles of a line from 17N132E to 22N145E. A surface trough extends northward from 4N135E to 12N136E. Scattered showers are present across the Republic of Palau and west of Yap or within an area bounded by a line from 4N130E to 13N135E to 4N138E back to 4N130E. Another surface trough extends east-northeastward from 2N144E to 6N154E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring southwest of Chuuk or within 150 miles of the trough axis. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Majuro or east of a line from 12N178E to 6N174E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:35 AM	Today	Low Tide:	2.0 Feet
12:35 PM	Today	High Tide:	0.1 Feet
7:00 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:43 PM	2:55 AM
Thursday	4:43 PM	3:42 AM
Friday	5:45 PM	4:34 AM
Saturday	6:49 PM	5:31 AM
Sunday	7:53 PM	6:32 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	2:55am	6:35am	1
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:55am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:55am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Business

Delta to operate special Saipan-Nagoya flights in summer

Delta Air Lines will offer the special non-stop service between Saipan and Nagoya during August 2013.

The flight will be operated seven times throughout the peak summer season in August using a Boeing 757 aircraft with 174 seats.

"The additional flights underscore Delta's continued commitment to the government and people of CNMI," Steven Crowdey, general manager Australia, Micronesia and Philippines, said. "The flights during the peak summer time will provide economic benefits for Saipan in terms of supporting inbound tourism while offering customers [on] Saipan more travel options to Japan and the U.S."

Nagoya is the third-largest incorporated city and the fourth most populous urban area in Japan. Delta operates non-stop flights from Nagoya to Detroit, Manila, Honolulu and Guam.

Delta's nonstop service between Saipan and Nagoya will operate as follows:

Flight	Departs	Arrives	Dates
DL582	Nagoya at 8:30pm	Saipan at 1am (next day)	8/9(Fri), 8/12(Mon), 8/15(Thu), 8/18(Sun), 8/21(Wed), 8/24(Sat), 8/27(Tue)
DL583	Saipan at 5:50am	Nagoya at 8:30am	8/10(Sat), 8/13(Tue), 8/16(Fri), 8/19(Mon), 8/22(Thu), 8/25(Sun), 8/28(Wed)

Customers wishing to book travel to Nagoya can call Delta's Sales Support at 1 866 335 8268 or see their travel agent.

Delta Air Lines serves more than 160 million customers each year. Delta was named by Fortune magazine as the most admired airline worldwide in its 2013 World's Most Admired Companies airline industry list, topping the list for the second time in three years. Additional information is available on delta.com, Twitter @Delta, Google.com/+Delta and Facebook.com/delta. ***(Delta)***

Panel: Apple uses firms outside US to avoid taxes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Apple Inc. employs a group of affiliate companies located outside the United States to avoid paying billions of dollars in U.S. income taxes, a Senate investigation has found.

The world's most valuable company is holding overseas some $102 billion of its $145 billion in cash, and an Irish subsidiary that earned $22 billion in 2011 paid only $10 million in taxes, according to the report issued Monday by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

The strategies Apple uses are legal, and many other multinational corporations use similar tax techniques to avoid paying U.S. income taxes on profits they reap overseas. But Apple uses a unique twist, the report found. The company's tactics raise questions about loopholes in the U.S. tax code, lawmakers say.

The spotlight on Apple's tax strategy comes at a time of fevered debate in Washington over whether and how to raise revenues to help reduce the federal deficit. Many Democrats complain that the government is missing out on collecting billions because companies are stashing profits abroad and avoiding taxes. Republicans want to cut the corporate tax rate of 35 percent and ease the tax burden on money that U.S. companies make abroad. They say the move would encourage companies to invest at home.

Apple CEO Tim Cook, the company's chief financial officer and its tax chief are scheduled to testify and explain the company's tax strategy at a hearing by the subcommittee Tuesday.

They are expected to face tough questions. The subcommittee's chairman, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., and other panel members could hold up Apple as an example of a powerful company using its privileged position to avoid taxes while ordinary Americans must pay them. The subcommittee last fall derided executives from other technology giants over similar allegations.

Apple refuted the subcommittee's assertions in testimony prepared for the hearing and released to the public Monday evening. Apple said it employs tens of thousands of Americans and pays "an extraordinary amount" in U.S. taxes, citing the roughly $6 billion it paid in fiscal 2012.

Yahoo looks to regain its cool with $1.1 billion Tumblr deal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—After falling woefully out of fashion, Yahoo wants to be cool again while catering to the capitalistic demands of its shareholders. That goal led CEO Marissa Mayer to make a $1.1 billion bet on online blogging forum Tumblr in a risky acquisition that revolves around the vision and instincts of a 26-year-old entrepreneur who dropped out of high school to pursue his dream of bringing more beauty and creativity to the Internet.

The deal announced Monday is Mayer's boldest move since she left Google 10 months ago to lead Yahoo's latest comeback attempt. It marks Yahoo's most expensive acquisition since it bought online search engine Overture a decade ago for $1.3 billion.

While hailing Tumblr as a fount of creativity that attracts 300 million visitors each month, Mayer told analysts Monday that she is "making a sincere promise to not screw it up." Yahoo said its founder, David Karp, will remain in charge and will keep Tumblr's headquarters in New York to retain the same "irreverence, wit and commitment to empower creators."

Tumblr's audience, which boasts a large concentration of teens and people in their early 20s, is already fretting that the service is going to become more stodgy and commercial under the ownership of an 18-year-old company that seems ancient by Internet standards. Advertising largely has been a missing ingredient so far as Tumblr, like many online services in their early stages, focused on building a loyal audience before turning its attention to making money. By purchasing Tumblr, Yahoo will have more opportunities to sell ads.

"I can't help but be concerned that Yahoo will `Yahooize' Tumblr and make it as irrelevant as the mother ship," said Jennifer Grant, 36, who has a Tumblr blog.

Founded in 2007, Tumblr emerged as a trendy online hangout by providing a blogging service that makes it easy to share posts, photos, video and other content in an enthralling mosaic of interlocking information. Tumblr forums are devoted to such diverse topics as art, architecture, food, politics, pets and fashion.

Although there are several competing services for people to blog, Tumblr makes it easy to create, discover and share content. Tumblr users rely on a dashboard to pinpoint the kinds of blogs that they want to track. Tools help users pass along posts that interest them.

The service says it has amassed more than 50 billion posts from 108 million blogs, with some 75 million new posts every day. More than half of Tumblr's users connect through its mobile app and engage in an average of seven visits per day.

Mayer is betting that Tumblr will provide Yahoo with a captivating hook to reel in more traffic and advertisers on smartphones and tablet computers. That rapidly growing market is expected to become even more important during the next decade as people increasingly consume digital content on mobile devices instead of laptop and desktop machines.

Tumblr could also help Yahoo recapture some of its cachet with teens and adults in their early 20s, a demographic that has become tougher for Yahoo to reach in recent years as it fell behind the technological curve and struggled to develop compelling services.

While Facebook has turned into a mainstream social network where even grandparents now connect family and friends, Tumblr has become one of the places where the cool kids hang out.

But Yahoo will have to manage Tumblr's next stage carefully to avoid driving away the Web surfers and mobile device users that had made Tumblr such an enticing takeover target.

Micah Gray, 22, a Tumblr user who lives in Denver, likened Yahoo to an old, rich uncle who shows up to a high school or college party and hops into the hot tub to the disgust of almost everyone else there. But "the owner of the house you're partying at sold the rights of the hot tub to him and he can use it whenever he wants and bring his other old, rich friends," Gray said.

On the other hand, investors will want to see results from the $1.1 billion price tag. Yahoo is paying mostly cash for Tumblr, dipping into what remains of a $7.6 billion windfall reaped last year from selling about half of its stake in Chinese Internet company Alibaba. Taking over Tumblr will devour about one-fifth of the $5.4 billion in cash that Yahoo had at the end of March.

AP

Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer, right, and Tumblr Chief Executive David Karp pose for photographs after a news conference Monday, May 20, 2013, in New York.

YAHOO! Seeking a wider market
Web trailblazer Yahoo! has said it will buy blogging service Tumblr for about $1.1 billion – one of the largest acquisitions of a social networking company – in an effort to refashion itself again.
Highlights of Yahoo's history
Daily stock price, adjusted for splits and dividends
April 1994 Yahoo founded by David Filo and Jerry Yang
1996 Company goes public
Jan. 3, 2000 Stock closes at $118.75, an all-time high
2001 Terry Semel becomes chairman, CEO, partners with ad agencies
2006 Introduces "smart ads"; loses bids to buy Facebook, YouTube
2007 Buys display advertisers Double Click and Right Media; Yang takes over as CEO
2008 Microsoft makes unsolicited bid, which Yahoo rejects
2009 Yang steps down, Autodesk CEO Carol Bartz takes over
2012 Yang resigns from board; Yahoo cuts 2,000 jobs; PayPay president Scott Thompson becomes CEO only to resign five months later; Marissa Mayer named CEO
2012 Says it will buy Tumblr
tumblr.
• Founded in 2007 by David Karp
• More than 100 million blogs; reaches 44 million U.S. users, 134 million worldwide
• 2012 profit $12 million
120
90
60
30
0
'96 '97 '98 '99 '00 '01 '01 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 '11 '12 '13
Source: Yahoo!, Tumblr, Quantcast, Wall Street Journal, San Jose Mercury News
Graphic: Pat Carr
© 2013 MCT

Nation

Huge tornado hits Oklahoma City suburb, kills 51

By TIM TALLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOORE, Okla. (AP)—A monstrous tornado at least a half-mile wide roared through the Oklahoma City suburbs Monday, flattening entire neighborhoods and destroying an elementary school with a direct blow as children and teachers huddled against winds up to 200 mph. At least 51 people were killed, including at least 20 children, and officials said the death toll was expected to rise.

The storm laid waste to scores of buildings in Moore, a community of 41,000 people about 10 miles south of the city. Block after block lay in ruins. Homes were crushed into piles of broken wood. Cars and trucks were left crumpled on the roadside.

The National Weather Service issued an initial finding that the tornado was an EF-4 on the enhanced Fujita scale, the second most-powerful type of twister.

More than 120 people were being treated at hospitals, including about 50 children. Search-and-rescue efforts were to continue throughout the night.

Tiffany Thronesberry said she heard from her mother, Barbara Jarrell, shortly after the tornado.

"I got a phone call from her screaming, `Help! Help! I can't breathe. My house is on top of me!'" Thronesberry said.

Thronesberry hurried to her mother's house, where first responders had already pulled her out. Her mother was hospitalized for treatment of cuts and bruises.

Rescuers launched a desperate rescue effort at the school, pulling children from heaps of debris and carrying them to a triage center.

Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin deployed 80 National Guard members to assist with rescue operations and activated extra highway patrol officers.

Fallin also spoke with President Barack Obama, who declared a major disaster and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts.

Many land lines to stricken areas were down, and cellphone networks were congested. The storm was so massive that it will take time to establish communications between rescuers and state officials, the governor said.

In video of the storm, the dark funnel cloud could be seen marching slowly across the green landscape. As it churned through the community, the twister scattered shards of wood, awnings and glass all over the streets.

The tornado also destroyed the community hospital and some retail stores.

Moore Mayor Glenn Lewis watched it pass through from his jewelry shop.

"All of my employees were in the vault," Lewis said.

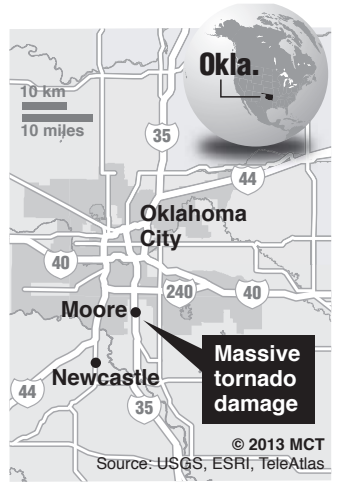
Chris Calvert saw the menacing cloud approaching from about a mile away.

"I was close enough to hear it," he said. "It was just a low roar, and you could see the debris, like pieces of shingles and insulation and stuff like that, rotating around it."

Even though his subdivision is a mile from the tornado's path, it was still covered with debris. He found a picture of a small girl on Santa Claus' lap in his yard.

Volunteers and first responders raced to search the debris for survivors.

At Plaza Towers Elementary School, the storm tore off the roof, knocked down walls and turned the playground into a mass of twisted plastic and metal.



Children from the school were among the dead, but several students were pulled alive from the rubble. Rescue workers passed the survivors down a human chain to the triage center in the parking lot.

James Rushing, who lives across the street from the school, heard reports of the approaching twister and ran to the school, where his 5-year-old foster son, Aiden, attends classes. Rushing believed he would be safer there.

"About two minutes after I got there, the school started coming apart," he said.

The students were sent into the restroom.

A man with a megaphone stood Monday evening near St. Andrews United Methodist Church and called out the names of surviving children. Parents waited nearby, hoping to hear their sons' and daughters' names.

Don Denton hadn't heard from his two sons since the tornado hit the town, but the man who has endured six back surgeries and walks with a severe limp said he walked about two miles as he searched for them.

As reports of the storm came in, Denton's 16-year-old texted him, telling him to call.

"I was trying to call him, and I couldn't get through," Denton said.

Eventually, Denton said, his sons spotted him in the crowd. They were fine, but upset to hear that their grandparents' home was destroyed.

As dusk began to fall, heavy equipment was rolled up to the school, and emergency workers wearing yellow crawled among the ruins, searching for survivors.

Because the ground was muddy, bulldozers and front-end loaders were getting stuck. Crews used jackhammers and sledgehammers to tear away concrete, and chunks were being thrown to the side as the workers dug.

Douglas Sherman drove two blocks from his home to help.

"Just having those kids trapped in that school, that really turns the table on a lot of things," he said.

A map provided by the National Weather Service showed that the storm began west of Newcastle and crossed the Canadian River into Oklahoma City's rural far southwestern side about 3 p.m. When it reached Moore, the twister cut a path through the center of town before lifting back into the sky at Lake Stanley Draper.

Oklahoma City Police Capt. Dexter Nelson said downed power lines and open gas lines posed a risk in the aftermath of the system.

Monday's powerful tornado loosely followed the path of a killer twister that slammed the region in May 1999.

The weather service estimated that Monday's tornado was at least a half-mile wide. The 1999 storm had winds clocked at 300 mph.

Kelsey Angle, a weather service meteorologist in Kansas City, Mo., said it's unusual for two such powerful tornadoes to track roughly the same path.

It was the fourth tornado to hit Moore since 1998. A twister also struck in 2003.

Lewis, who was also mayor during the 1999 storm, said the city was already at work on the recovery.

"We've already started printing the street signs. It took 61 days to clean up after the 1999 tornado. We had a lot of help then. We've got a lot of help now."

Monday's devastation in Oklahoma came almost exactly two years after an enormous twister ripped through the city of Joplin, Mo., killing 158 people and injuring hundreds more.

That May 22, 2011, tornado was the deadliest in the United States since modern tornado record keeping began in 1950, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Before Joplin, the deadliest modern tornado was June 1953 in Flint, Mich., when 116 people died.

A woman carries her child through a field near the collapsed Plaza Towers Elementary School in Moore, Okla., Monday, May 20, 2013.
AP

Oklahoma twister tracked path of 1999 tornado

NEW YORK (AP)—Monday's powerful tornado in suburban Oklahoma City loosely followed the path of a killer twister that slammed the region in May 1999.

The National Weather Service estimated that the storm that struck Moore, Okla., on Monday had wind speeds of up to 200 mph, and was at least a half-mile wide. The 1999 storm had winds clocked at 300 mph, according to the weather service website, and it destroyed or damaged more than 8,000 homes, killing at least two people.

Kelsey Angle, a weather service meteorologist in Kansas City, Mo., said it's unusual for two such powerful tornadoes to track roughly the same path. The 1999 twister was part of a two-day outbreak sweeping mostly across central Oklahoma—similar to the past two days.

This combination of Associated Press photos shows left, a neighborhood in Moore, Okla., in ruins on Tuesday, May 4, 1999, after a tornado flattened many houses and buildings in central Oklahoma, and right, flattened houses in Moore on Monday, May 20, 2013.

AP

DEADLIEST US TORNADOES

A list of the 10 deadliest tornadoes in the United States since 1900:

- 695 deaths. March 18, 1925, in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana.
- 216 deaths. April 5, 1936, in Tupelo, Miss.
- 203 deaths. April 6, 1936, in Gainesville, Ga.
- 181 deaths. April 9, 1947, in Woodward, Okla.
- 158 deaths. May 22, 2011, in Joplin, Mo.
- 143 deaths. April 24, 1908, in Amite, La., and Purvis, Miss.
- 116 deaths. June 8, 1953, in Flint, Mich.
- 114 deaths. May 11, 1953 in Waco, Texas.
- 114 deaths. May 18, 1902 in Goliad, Texas.
- 103 deaths. March 23, 1913, in Omaha, Neb.

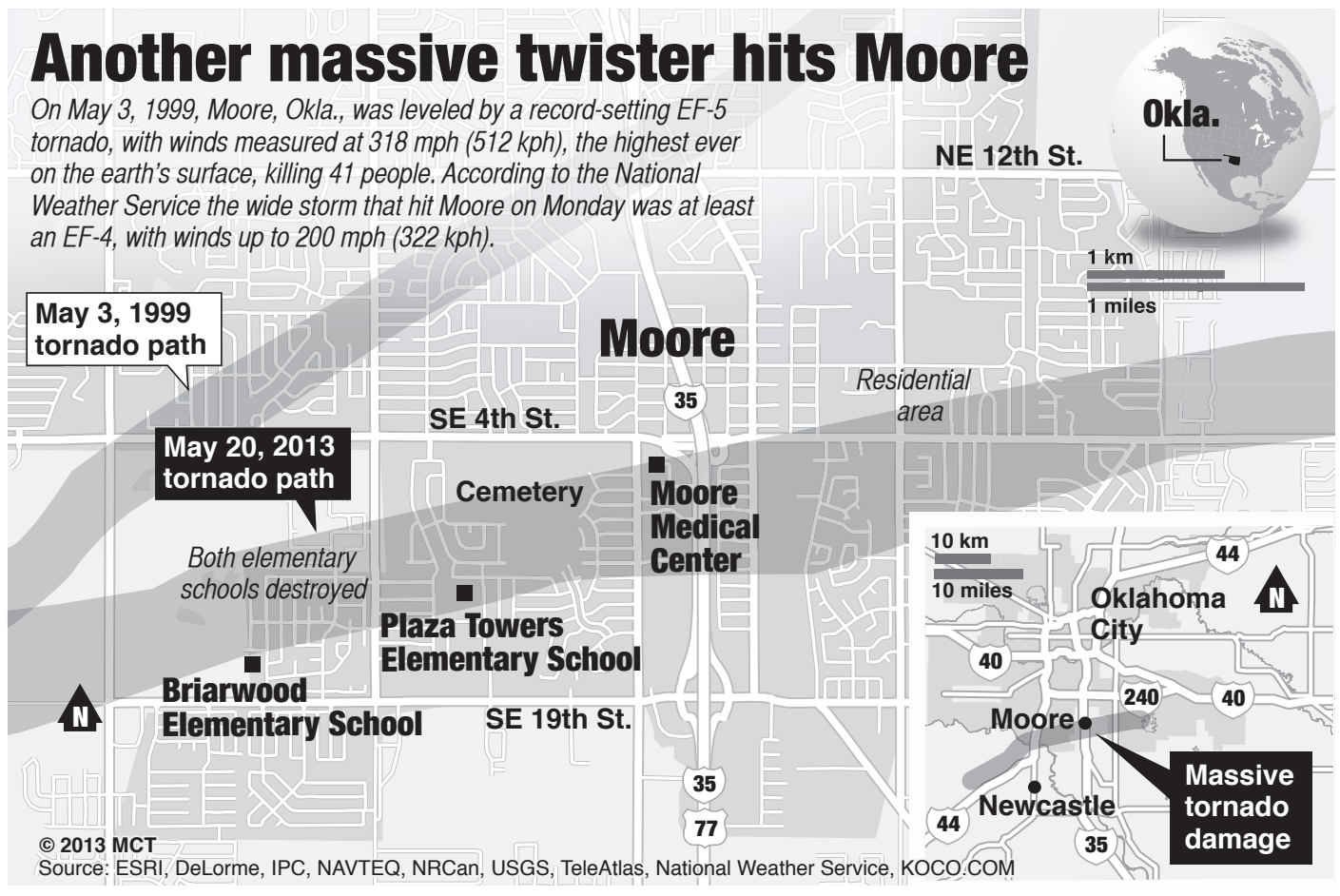
The weather service has tentatively classified the Moore twister's wind speeds as an EF4 on a 5-point scale. Angle said less than 1 percent of all tornadoes reach EF4 or EF5.

The thunderstorm developed in an area where warm moist air rose into cooler air. Winds in the area caused the storm to rotate, and that rotation promoted the development of a tornado. The most destructive and deadly tornadoes develop from rotating thunderstorms.

The biggest known tornado was nearly 2 1/2 miles wide at its peak width, which the weather service describes as near the maximum size for a tornado. It struck Hallam, Neb., in May 2004.

The deadliest tornado, which struck March 18, 1925, killed 695 people in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana.

Deaths from twisters have been declining in recent years because of improved forecasts and increased awareness by people living in tornado-prone areas, especially in smaller and rural communities.


Another massive twister hits Moore
On May 3, 1999, Moore, Okla., was leveled by a record-setting EF-5 tornado, with winds measured at 318 mph (512 kph), the highest ever on the earth's surface, killing 41 people. According to the National Weather Service the wide storm that hit Moore on Monday was at least an EF-4, with winds up to 200 mph (322 kph).
Okla.
NE 12th St.
1 km
1 miles
May 3, 1999 tornado path
Moore
Residential area
SE 4th St.
35
May 20, 2013 tornado path
Cemetery
Moore Medical Center
Both elementary schools destroyed
Plaza Towers Elementary School
Briarwood Elementary School
SE 19th St.
35
77
10 km
10 miles
44
Oklahoma City
40
240
40
Moore
Newcastle
44
35
Massive tornado damage
© 2013 MCT
Source: ESRI, DeLorme, IPC, NAVTEQ, NRCan, USGS, TeleAtlas, National Weather Service, KOCO.COM

Obama vows US support as Myanmar leader visits

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Monday told Myanmar's president during a long-awaited White House meeting that he appreciates the Asian leader's efforts to lead the country on its sometimes difficult path to democracy and assured him of U.S. support.

Obama spoke as he sat in the Oval Office with former general Thein Sein, who became the first president of Myanmar to visit the White House in 47 years. Activists object to the invitation because of concerns over human rights in the country, but it marks a turnaround in international acceptance for Myanmar after decades of isolation and direct military rule.

Obama credited Thein Sein for political and economic reforms and ending significant tensions between their two countries.

"We very much appreciate your efforts in leadership in leading Myanmar in a new direction and we want you to know that the United States will make every effort to assist you in what I know is a long and sometimes difficult but ultimately correct path to follow," Obama said.

In a speech at a university in Washington, Thein Sein called for a new era in U.S.-Myanmar relations. On domestic challenges, he vowed to ensure that communal violence between Buddhists and minority Muslims that has claimed hundreds of lives over the past year would be brought to a halt and that all the perpetrators are brought to justice.

Obama said he expressed concern about violence against Muslims in the country. "The displacement of people, the violence directed toward them needs to stop," he said.

Obama said they discussed Thein Sein's intention to release more political prisoners, institutionalize political reform and rule of law so it endures and work to end ethnic conflict. "As President (Thein) Sein is the first to admit, this is a long journey and there is still much work to be done," he said.

AP

President Barack Obama shakes hands with Myanmar's President Thein Sein at the end of their meeting in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Monday, May 20, 2013.

Asia

Seoul: Day 3 of NKorea tests of short-range weapon

Missile tests

In defiance of international sanctions, North Korea has test-fired six missiles, adding to the list of its recent provocations.

Recent actions

Dec. 12, 2012 North Korea launches rocket; says it put a satellite in orbit

Feb. 12, 2013 North conducts underground nuclear test

March 11 U.S., South Korea begin yearly military drills

March 19 U.S. first flies B-52 bombers over South Korea

March 27 Pyongyang closes military hotline with Seoul

March 30 North states it is in "state of war" with South

April 2 North says it will restart its Yongbyon nuclear reactor

April 3 North bars workers from South from Kaesong plant, later pulls its workers from the industrial zone

April 10 North moves mid-range missiles to east coast, later removes them

May 18 North begins testing short-range missiles, saying testing rockets is part of its regular military drills

May 19 U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon asks North to stop testing

May 20 North tests sixth missile

Source: BBC, AP, ESRI
Graphic: Pat Carr

© 2013 MCT

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea continued firing short-range weapons over its own eastern waters Monday after a weekend of what it called "rocket launching tests" intended to bolster deterrence against enemy attack. South Korean officials were investigating exactly what it was that the North was testing.

North Korea regularly conducts short-range missile tests. Analysts say the recent launches appear to be weapons tests or an attempt to get U.S. and South Korean attention amid tentative signs of diplomacy after soaring tensions that followed U.N. sanctions aimed at a North Korean nuclear test in February.

The two projectiles fired by North Korea on Monday had similar trajectories as four previous launches over the past two days, according to officials at Seoul's Defense Ministry and Joint Chiefs of Staff. Officials were analyzing whether the projectiles were missiles or rockets fired from a large-caliber gun North Korea may be developing, the officials said on condition of anonymity, citing department rules.

Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok told reporters earlier Monday that South Korea is taking seriously whatever weapons North Korea develops because it could attack the South. He said artillery guns with a larger caliber will likely have more destructive power.

In Washington, Pentagon press secretary George Little said Monday the Obama administration does not consider the short-range launches a sign of renewed tensions.

"These short-range missile launches do not necessarily violate their international obligations," unlike the North's recent nuclear test and long-range rocket launch, he said.

North Korea's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea on Monday called South Korean and U.S. criticism an "intolerable challenge" that is deepening tension. It said it conducted "rocket launching tests" on Saturday and Sunday as part of drills to bolster deterrence against what it calls U.S. and South Korean plots to launch nuclear strikes against North Korea. It didn't comment on Monday's firing.

North Korea has a variety of missiles but Seoul and Washington don't believe the country has mastered the technology needed to make nuclear warheads small and light enough to be placed on a missile capable of reaching the U.S.

The Korean Peninsula officially remains in a state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

Suicide bomber kills 14 at Afghan province council

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber dressed in a police uniform killed 14 people including a prominent provincial council chief outside the council headquarters in northern Afghanistan on Monday, authorities said. The Taliban insurgency quickly claimed responsibility.

Seeking to weaken the Afghan government, Taliban insurgents have been carrying out attacks and assassinations intended to intimidate both officials and civilians ahead of next year's withdrawal of most international troops.

Baghlan provincial council leader Mohammad Rasoul Mohseni was entering the compound in the provincial capital of Pul-e-Khumri in the morning when the bomber approached on foot and detonated his explosives, said Baghlan chief of police Asadullah Sherzad.

The attacker was dressed in police uniform and blended with officers at a checkpoint near the council headquarters, then slipped into a group of people surrounding Mohseni and set off his bomb in the crowd, said Baghlan deputy police chief Mohammad Sadeq Muradi.

"He was basically waiting for his target, who was Rasoul Mohseni," Muradi said.

Two of Mohseni's police bodyguards, four checkpoint police and seven civilians were killed in the blast, he said. It was unclear whether the attacker was actually a member of Afghan security forces or an insurgent who bought or stole a uniform.

Mohammad Zahier Ghanizada, a member of parliament from Baghlan, said that Mohseni had previously received multiple death threats.

A well-known figure in Baghlan, Mohseni was previously a respected commander in the Northern Alliance that fought against the Taliban's hard-line regime before it was toppled in 2001. He comes from a prominent family in the province, and his brother Azim Mohseni is a member of parliament.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Chinese fishing boat, crew released by North Korea

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese boat and 16 fishermen seized for ransom by armed North Koreans two weeks ago were released Tuesday, easing the latest irritant in relations between the neighboring allies. Owner Yu Xuejun, who wasn't aboard the boat when it was seized May 5, wrote on his verified microblog that his captain called him at 3:50 a.m. to say the crew and boat were set free and that they were on their way home. He told the state-run Global Times newspaper all of the crewmembers were OK. Yu, who had reported the seizure to Chinese authorities earlier, began publicizing the incident over the weekend as a deadline for a 600,000 yuan ($100,000) ransom drew near.

Indonesia mine collapse death toll rises to 21

TIMIKA, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers recovered another four bodies from a collapsed underground room at a giant U.S.-owned gold and copper mine in Indonesia, bringing the confirmed death toll to 21, mine officials said Tuesday. Seven others were believed buried under the rubble. The Big Gossan underground training facility at the PT Freeport Indonesia mine collapsed last week when 38 workers were undergoing safety training. Ten injured miners were rescued. A statement from the company said recovery efforts were continuing around the clock.

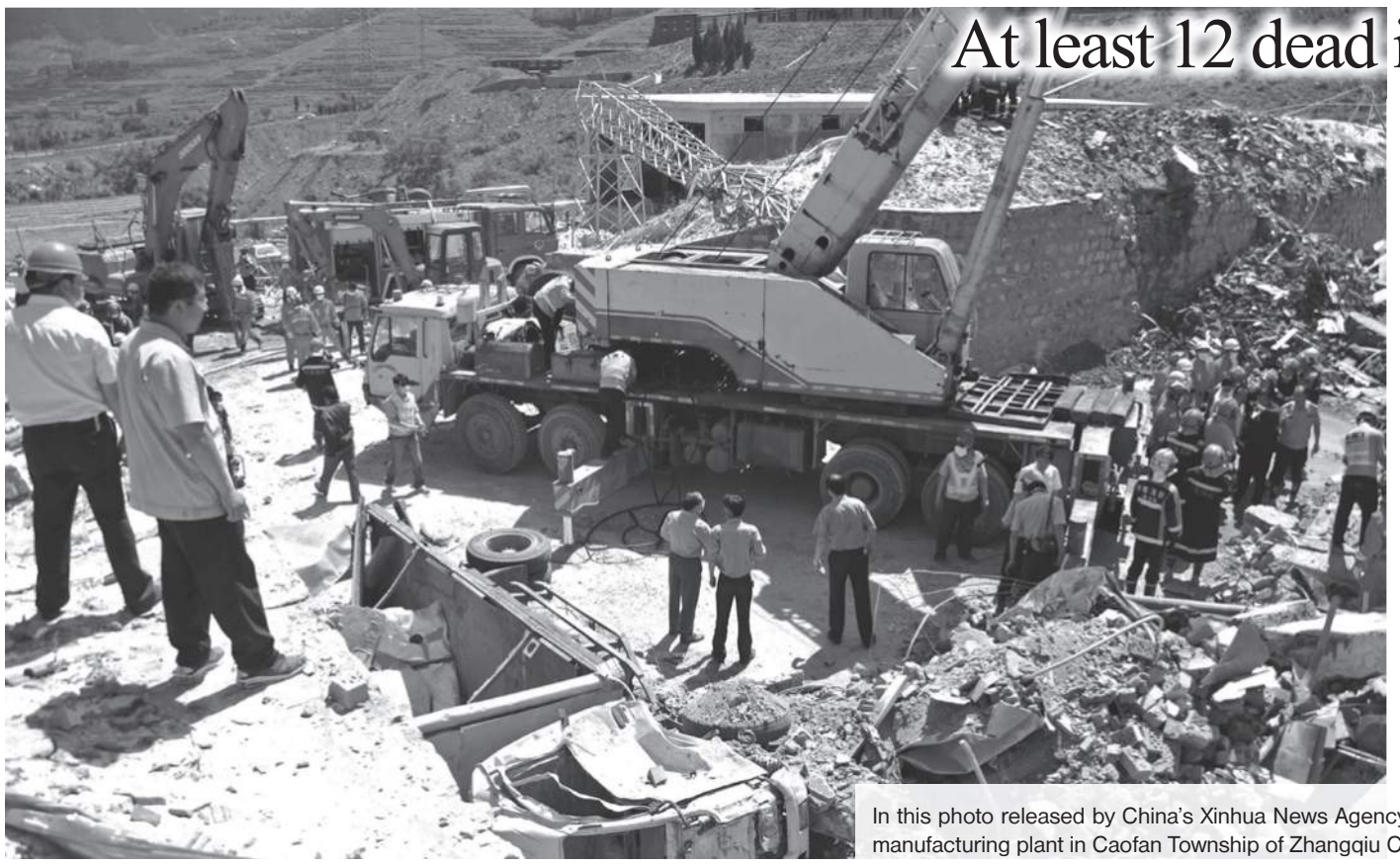
China's Xi will meet Obama earlier than expected

BEIJING (AP)—China's new leader Xi Jinping will confer with President Barack Obama next month in California, months earlier than their expected first meeting, as both sides seek to stem a drift in relations, troubled by issues from cyberspying to North Korea. The June 7-8 meeting at a retreat southeast of Los Angeles, announced Monday by the White House, underlines the importance of the relationship between the countries as they work out ways for the U.S.-led world order to make room for a China that is fast accruing global influence and military power.

Pakistan's presumptive PM calls for Taliban talks

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's presumptive prime minister called for peace talks with Taliban militants at war with the government Monday, potentially charting a course that could put him at odds with the country's powerful army. Nawaz Sharif said "terrorism" was one of the most serious problems plaguing the country and any offer by the Pakistani Taliban to talk "should be taken seriously." "All options should be tried, and guns are not a solution to all problems," Sharif said in a speech to newly elected members of his party in the eastern city of Lahore. "Why shouldn't we sit and talk, engage in dialogue?"

At least 12 dead in China factory explosion



BEIJING (AP)—A massive blast ripped through an explosives factory on Monday in eastern China, killing at least 12 people and leaving others buried in the debris, state media reported.

Rescuers were taking care to avoid setting off additional explosions as they searched the site of the explosion in Shandong province's Caofan township, the China News Service said. The company website said the factory, run by the Baoli group, manufactures 10,000 tons of industrial explosives annually.

The force of the blast flung broken glass, smashed concrete, and other debris as far as 200 meters (660 feet), reports said. Walls in outlying buildings were flattened and glass shattered.

A total of 34 people were inside the factory at the time of the blast, and survivors were rushed to a hospital. The cause of the blast and condition of those injured were not immediately known.

A government spokesman for the surrounding city of Zhangqiu said a full accounting of the dead and injured was being compiled and would be released. Like many Chinese bureaucrats, he would only give his surname, Cao.

China has sought to tighten access to explosives used for quarrying following a series of attacks by people using homemade bombs. However, safety rules are often ignored and industrial accidents remain common.

AP

In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, rescuers work at the site where a blast ripped through an explosives manufacturing plant in Caofan Township of Zhangqiu City, east China's Shandong Province, Monday, May 20, 2013.

World

Attacks kill 95 in Iraq, hint of Syrian spillover

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's wave of bloodshed sharply escalated Monday with more than a dozen car bombings across the country, part of attacks that killed at least 95 people and brought echoes of past sectarian carnage and fears of a dangerous spillover from Syria's civil war next door.

The latest spiral of violence—which has claimed more than 240 lives in the past week—carries the hallmarks of the two sides that brought nearly nonstop chaos to Iraq for years: Sunni insurgents, including al-Qaida's branch in Iraq, and Shiite militias defending their newfound power after Saddam Hussein's fall.

But the widening shadow and regional brinksmanship from Syria's conflict now increasingly threaten to feed into Iraq's sectarian strife, heightening concerns that Iraq could be turning toward civil war.

The Shiite-led government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki must balance its close ties with Iran—the main regional ally of Syria's Bashar Assad—and its position among fellow Arab League members and neighboring Turkey, which strongly back Syria's mainly Sunni opposition.

Al-Maliki appears determined to boost security crackdowns to keep Iraq's minority Sunnis from taking a more high-profile role in the anti-Assad forces, which have received pledges of support from the longtime insurgent group al-Qaida in Iraq.

There have been no claims of responsibility for the current flare-up of violence, capped by Monday's body count that was the highest death toll for a single day in 10 months. Yet some analysts believe it's difficult to separate Iraq's deep sectarian suspicions from the Shiite-Sunni split over Assad, which has also led to clashes in Lebanon.

"Iraq now has moved into a bigger circle that covers Syria and Lebanon," said Baghdad-based political affairs analyst Hadi Jalo.

Al-Maliki is not only worried about his Sunni rivals possibly deepening their involvement in the rebel cause in Syria, said Patrick Clawson, director of research at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Al-Maliki's worries extend to Iraq's semiautonomous northern Kurdish region, which has close links to Assad foe Turkey.

"Al-Maliki believes this is the time to be tough and show he is in control of the country," said Clawson. "What we are seeing is the backlash to that." The U.S. and its Western allies strongly support Syria's political opposition, but have been reluctant to significantly boost weapons flow to rebel fighters because of worries over Islamic militants who have joined the anti-Assad brigades. But the deepening refugee crisis in the region, along with concern over spillover violence, is often cited by Arab states and Turkey urging greater Western intervention.

AP

An Iraqi woman passes by the scene of a car bomb attack in Kamaliyah neighborhood, a predominantly Shiite area of eastern Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, May 20, 2013.

Suicide blast in Syrian capital kills at least 15

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—A suicide car bomber struck Monday in the financial heart of Syria's capital, killing at least 15 people, damaging the nearby central bank and incinerating cars and trees in the neighborhood.

The attack was the latest in a recent series of bombings to hit Damascus in the civil war, slowly closing in on President Bashar Assad's base of power in the capital. Rebel fighters have chipped away at the regime's hold in northern and eastern Syria, as well as making significant gains in the south, helped in part by an influx of foreign-funded weapons.

The blast was adjacent Sabaa Bahrat Square—near the state-run Syrian Investment Agency, the Syrian Central Bank and the Finance Ministry—and dealt a symbolic blow to the nation's ailing economy.

In the early days of the 2-year-old uprising, the grandiose roundabout was home to huge pro-regime demonstrations with a gigantic poster of Assad hung over the central bank headquarters.

The area was a very different scene Monday.

State TV showed several cars on fire and thick black smoke billowing above the tree-lined street. At least six bodies were sprawled on the pavement. Paramedics carried a young woman on a stretcher, her face bloodied and her white shirt stained red. A man placed a T-shirt over a victim whose face was blown off.

Firefighters struggled to extinguish flames that engulfed the two buildings as well as a row of cars near the roundabout. State media put the toll at 15 dead and 146 wounded.

Witnesses said the suicide attacker tried to ram the vehicle into the investment agency but was stopped by guards, forcing the bomber to detonate the explosives at the gate.

Visiting a mosque across the street that was damaged in the blast, Prime Minister Wael al-Halqi described the attack as "the work of cowards" and vowed the army would crush all armed groups fighting the government. Shattered glass and torn curtains littered the mosque's red carpet.

Guatemala top court overturns genocide conviction

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Guatemala's top court overturned the genocide conviction of former dictator Efrain Rios Montt and ordered on Monday that his trial restart, throwing into disarray proceedings that had been hailed as historic for delivering the first such guilty verdict for a Latin American leader.

Constitutional Court secretary Martin Guzman said the trial needs to go back to where it stood on April 19 to solve several appeal issues.

The ruling came 10 days after a three-judge panel convicted the 86-year-old Rios Montt of genocide and crimes against humanity for his role in massacres of Mayans during Guatemala's civil war. It found he knew about the slaughter of at least 1,771 Ixil Mayans in the western highlands and didn't stop it.

The tribunal sentenced him to 80 years in prison, drawing cheers from many Guatemalans. It was the first time a former Latin American leader was convicted of such crimes in his home country and the first official acknowledgment that genocide occurred during the bloody, 36-year civil war, something the current president, retired Gen. Otto Perez Molina, has denied.

Rios Montt's lawyers immediately filed an appeal and he spent only one day in prison before he was moved to a military hospital, where he remains.

A defense lawyer, Francisco Garcia Gudiel, told The Associated Press by telephone that he would seek the former dictator's freedom.

"There is no alternative," Garcia said. "The court has made a legal resolution after many flaws in the process. Tomorrow we will ask that they liberate the general, who is being imprisoned unjustly."

The proceedings against Rios Montt were first suspended on April 19 after the tribunal hearing the oral part of his trial asked the Constitutional Court to decide if the proceeding should continue after another judge sought to have it annulled.

The trial had been nearing closing arguments when that judge, Carol Patricia Flores, intervened. Flores had been in charge of the first phase of the trial, in which evidence was gathered and determined to justify a trial, but she was removed from the case in February 2012 after defense lawyers charged her with bias.

Flores was reinstated to the case in early April by the Constitutional Court. She tried to halt the trial, but the tribunal hearing the case went ahead with testimony and convicted Rios Montt.

The tribunal issued its verdict after a nearly two-month trial in which dozens of victims testified about mass rapes and the killings of women and children and other atrocities committed by government troops.

Survivors and relatives of victims have sought for 30 years to bring punishment for Rios Montt. For international observers and Guatemalans on both sides of the war, the trial was seen as a turning point in a nation still wrestling with the trauma of a conflict that killed some 200,000 people.

Tunisian feminist arrested for alleged provocation

AP

This recent image from video provided by CAPA and Canal+ television on Monday April, 8, 2013 shows Tunisian Femen activist Amina Tyler.

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—A Tunisian feminist who scandalized her country by posting topless photos of herself online has been arrested after allegedly sneaking into Tunisia's holiest city disguised in a veil, then trying to get undressed during a protest.

On Sunday, Amina Tyler—a 19-year-old member of the Ukrainian feminist group FEMEN, which uses nudity in its protests—passed through heavy security and checkpoints to enter the city of Kairouan, where police were preventing hardline conservative Islamists from holding an annual conference.

There she unveiled her bleach blonde hair and cutoff jeans, scrawled "FEMEN" on the wall of a cemetery near the city's main mosque, and attempted to take off her clothes, her lawyer Radhia Nasraoui quoted police as saying.

The protest enraged local residents who converged on her, and police took her into custody.

In a video of the incident shown on the Tunisian news website Nawaat, people yell "get out" at her as police usher her into a waiting van.

"She is dishonoring us. We will protect our town, but a dirty girl like her shouldn't come among us," one resident screams at the camera.

"We are all Muslims," Tyler says to one man, who replies: "You are no Muslim. Don't come to Kairouan."

The Interior Ministry said Monday she may be charged with conducting "provocative acts" when she appears in court on Tuesday.

"It is an act of provocation and it is against the morals and traditions of Tunisian society, which is a Muslim society," Interior Ministry spokesman Mohammed Ali Aroui told journalists, without elaborating on what those acts were.

Campus Life

Should we let wunderkinds drop out of high school?

By BETH J. HARPAZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—It's one thing to say tech geniuses don't need degrees. After all, Bill Gates, Steve Jobs and Mark Zuckerberg all dropped out of college.

But now we've got David Karp, who doesn't even have a high school diploma. Karp, 26, founded Tumblr, the online blogging forum, and sold it to Yahoo for $1.1 billion.

Which raises the question: When is it OK for a wunderkind to drop out of school?

Some folks in Silicon Valley and elsewhere say a conventional education can't possibly give kids with outsize talents what they need. Others, like Vivek Wadhwa, a fellow at Stanford Law School who teaches and advises startup companies, say dropping out to pursue a dream is like "buying a lottery ticket—that's how good your odds are here. More likely than not, you will become unemployed. For every success, there are 100,000 failures."

But what about kids who are so good at computer programming that schools can't teach them what they need to know? "That's what internships are for; that's what extracurricular activities are for," says Wadhwa, who has founded two companies.

Karp, in an interview with The Associated Press on Monday, said he hopes teenagers don't look at his success as an excuse for leaving school. "That is not

> *Dropping out to pursue a dream is like buying a lottery ticket—that's how good your odds are here. More likely than not, you will become unemployed. For every success, there are 100,000 failures.*

a path that I would haphazardly recommend to kids out there," he said. "I was in a very unique position of knowing exactly what I wanted to do at a time when computer science education certainly wasn't that good in high school in New York City."

Karp's mother gave him the option of homeschooling when he was 14, after he completed his freshman year at the Bronx High School of Science, an elite New York City public school that only admits students who score well on a difficult entrance exam. Karp took Japanese classes and had a math tutor while continuing with an internship at an animation production company, but by age 16, he was working for a website and was on his way to become a tech entrepreneur. He never did get his diploma. Karp's mother told the AP that she let him leave school because she realized "he needed the time in the day in order to create."

That resonates with Penny Mills of Hudson, Mass., who let her son Thomas Sohmers, 17, drop out of 11th grade this year. "I could see how much of the work he was doing at school wasn't relevant to what he wanted to learn," she said. "He always wanted to learn more than what the schools wanted to teach him. At times it was very frustrating. I was fortunate to find people that were able to teach him more, but he has gone beyond what high school could ever give him."

Thomas has been working at a research lab at the esteemed Massachusetts Institute of Technology since he was 13, developing projects ranging from augmented reality eyewear to laser communications systems. He just won a Thiel Fellowship, which gives $100,000 to 20 people under the age of 20 each year so they can skip college to focus on research or a dream, whether it's a high-tech project, a business or a nonprofit. But his mom says she would have let him drop out even if he hadn't won the award.

"The part that really bothers me is that there are a lot of Thomases out there and their needs are not being met," said Mills.

Thomas says he's sad to be leaving his teenage friends behind, but he's excited about the future. And he has mixed feelings about his years in school. "I've had some amazing, great teachers that really have the passion to teach, but most of what is in school now is teaching to a test," he said. "It's really sad. You're not learning the skills for how to solve the problem—you are just learning the answer to this question that is going to be on the test."

Susan Bartell, a psychologist based in Port Washington, New York who works with adolescents and their families, says she frequently encounters parents who are convinced that their kids are extraordinarily gifted. But she cautions that it's "the very rare exception when this decision (to drop out) makes sense." In the case of Karp, she said, "it worked out, but almost always it doesn't—even if a kid is extremely gifted. School is about much more than just academics and in most cases, even the most gifted kids need the socializing."

And not all young moguls take Karp's route. Earlier this year, a 17-year-old from London, Nick D'Aloisio, sold an app he created to Yahoo for $30 million—but he decided to stay in school.

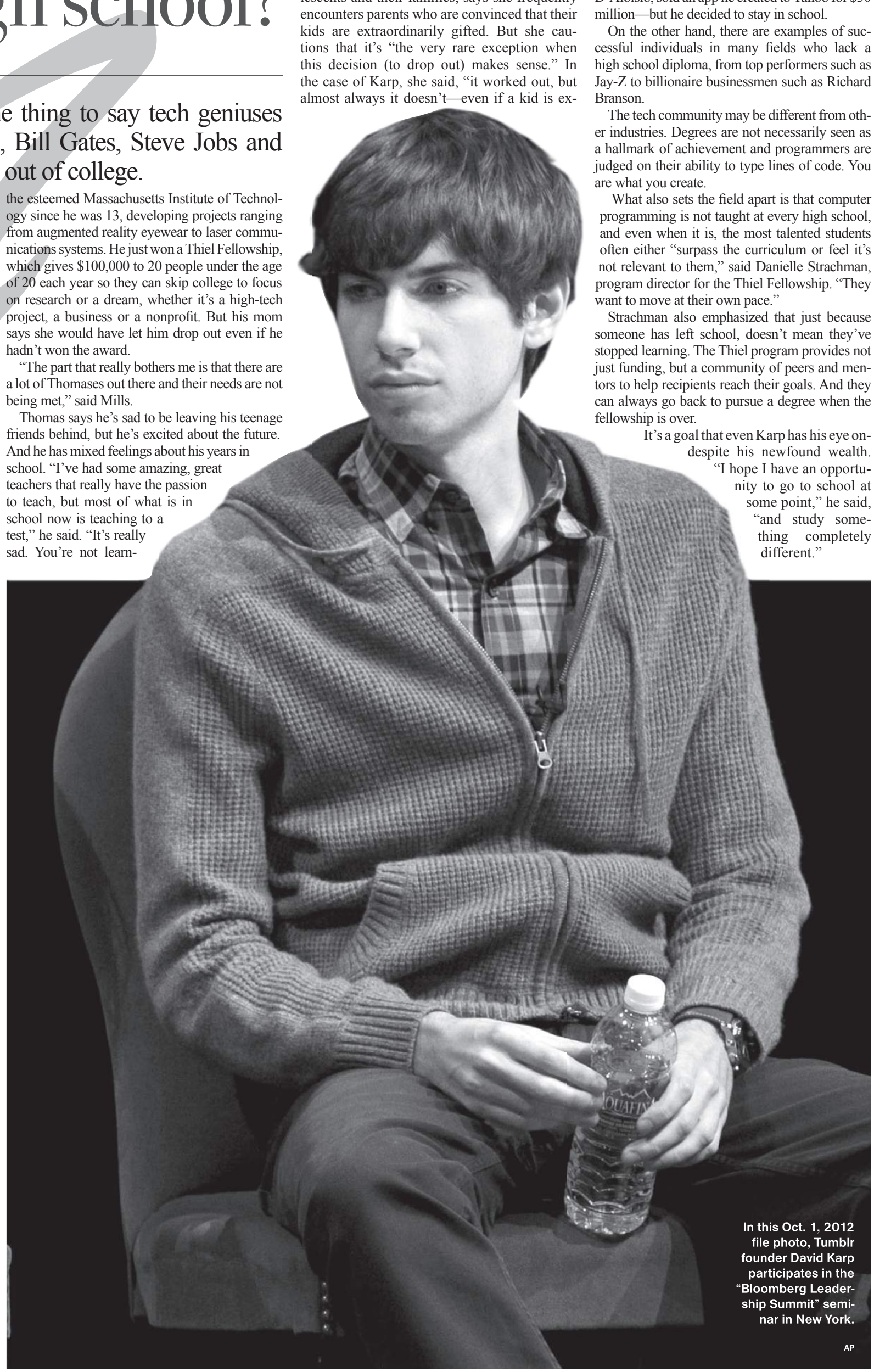
On the other hand, there are examples of successful individuals in many fields who lack a high school diploma, from top performers such as Jay-Z to billionaire businessmen such as Richard Branson.

The tech community may be different from other industries. Degrees are not necessarily seen as a hallmark of achievement and programmers are judged on their ability to type lines of code. You are what you create.

What also sets the field apart is that computer programming is not taught at every high school, and even when it is, the most talented students often either "surpass the curriculum or feel it's not relevant to them," said Danielle Strachman, program director for the Thiel Fellowship. "They want to move at their own pace."

Strachman also emphasized that just because someone has left school, doesn't mean they've stopped learning. The Thiel program provides not just funding, but a community of peers and mentors to help recipients reach their goals. And they can always go back to pursue a degree when the fellowship is over.

It's a goal that even Karp has his eye on—despite his newfound wealth. "I hope I have an opportunity to go to school at some point," he said, "and study something completely different."



In this Oct. 1, 2012 file photo, Tumblr founder David Karp participates in the "Bloomberg Leadership Summit" seminar in New York.

AP

Life & Style

JJ Abrams boldly going from 'Trek' to 'Star Wars'

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—J.J. Abrams is master of one universe—and he's about to try conquering another.

The director who rebooted "Star Trek" for a new generation, sending the USS Enterprise out again to explore strange new worlds, has also been put at the "Star Wars" helm. Soon he'll direct a new film, the seventh, in the epic sci-fi franchise.

So while Abrams is in London to talk about his second "Trek" feature, "Star Trek Into Darkness"—releasing in U.S. theaters on May 17—the topic inevitably drifts to a galaxy far, far away.

"I feel preposterously lucky," said Abrams, a self-declared "Star Wars" fanboy.

"I do feel at the core this incredible disbelief that I'm actually even answering questions at all about my involvement in something that until fairly recently I didn't even know was going to come back as a series. And now I get to be involved in it."

Just how involved, he says, remains to be seen.

Abrams' "Star Wars: Episode VII" is part of big plans for The Walt Disney Co., which bought George Lucas' Lucasfilm empire last year for $4.05 billion. The company is planning three sequels and two stand-alone spinoff movies focusing on characters from the "Star Wars" universe.

AP
In a Saturday, May 6, 2013 file photo, JJ Abrams poses for a portrait session at the Corinthia Hotel in London.

Will Abrams direct the entire new trilogy? Will he be involved in any of the spinoffs? Will George Lucas play a mentoring role? He can't say.

"I never see myself doing anything more than what's in front of me," Abrams said—one film, due for release in 2015 and scripted by "Little Miss Sunshine" screenwriter Michael Arndt.

"What the approach is going to be remains to be discussed, because it's in process," he said. "So it's a weird thing to be talking about. If I'm charging down the court dribbling the ball, it's hard to comment on the layup that's about to take place.

"I feel like the ball is just getting passed to me now, to complete the annoying metaphor."

But it's a suitably energetic metaphor for the prolific creator of TV shows, including "Felicity," ''Alias" and "Lost," director of films "Mission: Impossible III" and "Super 8" and owner of Bad Robot, the film and television production company whose upcoming projects include a movie about disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong.

Compact and voluble, in natty black-framed spectacles and a dark jacket, 46-year-old Abrams is the epitome of the geek made good.

By his own admission, though, he has never been much of a "Star Trek" fan. Roberto Orci, a producer and writer on both Abrams' "Star Trek" movies, says—with mock-horror—that the director "didn't even know that Spock was half-human."

Abrams' distance may actually have been an asset. The "Star Trek" reboot works because it speaks to fans and newcomers alike. It's the work of a director who was not overawed by "Star Trek's" mythology or bogged down in its lore.

"I think a lot of sequels make this weird mistake, which is that they assume you care," Abrams said. "They assume you know about the world or the characters.

"The approach to 'Star Trek,' especially for 'Into Darkness,' was to make a standalone movie.

"You never have to have seen our first film or the original series. It's its own thing. If you have, you'll be rewarded, but you don't have to."

Abrams' characters are drawn directly from the original series, led by impulsive, cocksure Capt. James T. Kirk (Chris Pine) and uber-logical Vulcan first officer Spock (Zachary Quinto). But the filmmakers gave themselves freedom to play with character and plot, thanks to some alternate-universe sleight of hand.

"Star Trek Into Darkness" picks up where the first film left off, with the crew of the Starship Enterprise in the midst of a high-octane outer space adventure. Then a personal crisis shakes Kirk's confidence, and a terrorist attack shatters Starfleet. Soon the crew are off in pursuit of a villain—played with muscular menace by "Sherlock" star Benedict Cumberbatch—who may be an ally, or the enemy within.

Treats for fans of the original series are scattered about like Easter eggs—there's the return of an iconic character, even a tribble.

"Star Trek Into Darkness" retains the thread of social commentary that ran through the 1960s original, asking how far is it morally acceptable to go in waging a war on terror. But the film, shot in almost overwhelming IMAX 3-D, also announces its action

See ABRAMS on Next Page

AP: Soderbergh on quitting movies

NEW YORK (AP)—Steven Soderbergh is working on a new currency.

In his Chelsea studio, among various film posters and piles of moviemaking mementos, he has a few paintings in progress, including a new, livelier, "more Hendrix" version of a U.S. dollar bill. It's only one of the many artistic endeavors he bounces between now that he's begun his long-predicted hiatus from filmmaking.

On Tuesday, he will bring his Liberace film, "Behind the Candelabra," to the Cannes Film Festival, where it will compete for the same Palme d'Or he won 24 years ago for his first film, "Sex, Lies and Videotape."

Soderbergh has said this—a $23 million HBO movie starring Michael Douglas as the flamboyant pianist and Matt Damon as his lover, Scott Thorson, airing Sunday in the U.S.—will be his last film, at least for now. The 50 year-old's career in film—26 protean features including "Out of Sight," "Traffic" and the "Ocean's" franchise—will effectively conclude in Cannes, the same place it was internationally launched.

"It's not often you get the opportunity to arrange that kind of symmetry," Soderbergh says. "It's funny to think about how long ago that was."

Shortly after Soderbergh began tweeting a sparse novella and gave a remarkable speech at the San Francisco Film Festival in which he vented his frustration at Hollywood studios, he sat for a lengthy interview as he steps away from movies. "In theory," he says, "I'm finished."

AP: When you look back on your filmography, what do you think of it?

Soderbergh: It feels like one big movie to me, like chapters of a novel. There's continuity. There's evolution. I shot "Sex, Lies" in 35 days and "Candelabra" in 30 days. I'm more economical. I'd probably make them all a few minutes shorter. Shorter is always better.

AP: The break from movies you've long talked about is now effectively underway. How's it going?

Soderbergh

Soderbergh: It's been a little quieter for me. My wanting to consider what my relationship to movies is can sort of happen while I'm doing this other stuff. . It's hard for me to do nothing.

AP: You've recently tweeted a novella, "Glue," and given a wide-ranging speech about how Hollywood could function better.

Soderbergh: It was kind of an opportunity to organize in one place a lot of thing I've either said in interviews or bars. It was just a way for me to structure it all, get it out and close the door on it. . As I walked out the door, I felt there were some things I wanted to memorialize about what I've seen.

AP: It felt like a goodbye.

Soderbergh: I spend a lot of time trying to figure out how I can optimize my process as a filmmaker, and I haven't seen a lot of effort expended on the part of the studios to optimize their process. And I don't understand it. . The biggest stumbling block to this paradigm being revised is the cost of putting a mainstream movie out. It's truly the tail that's wagging the dog. It's influencing every decision at every level. I can't believe—unless there's some aspect of the relationship between the studios and the theater owners that I'm not aware of—that this is the only way it can be done.

AP: Is your stepping back motivated equally by industry frustration and by your desire to grow in some new way as a filmmaker?

Soderbergh: Yeah, absolutely, it's a combination of a lot of different things. Some of them have to do with the way the business is working now, some of them have to do with me just wanting a break from the social aspect of it. The fact that you're the target for tens of thousands of questions. It's a very intense process and you can feel worn down after a while. And then my own feelings just about the grammar of it, the language of it: Is there some other way to transmit and release information that isn't so prescribed? It's quite possible that I could end up making something that is designed more to be seen in a museum than a movie theater.

AP: Was there something you were bumping up against that made you feel like you weren't evolving?

Soderbergh: It felt like: I need to tear everything down and start over. I've been thinking about that and thinking about what it might be. I want to take advantage of what people bring to a movie when they watch a movie. The fact that we're so image driven and that we've been watching images since we were infants, and we have associations that are carried with them. I want to figure out a way to take advantage of that, so that I'm sort of using those associations as fuel for what I want to do. I think that's going to require me taking some time to think about what those associations are, how I can use them, how I can build off of them, how I can subvert them. And see if there's some way that I can reverse engineer a narrative in which you, by the end of it, understand everything that happened but you're not quite sure how or why you did.

AP: It seems your search for a new kind of narrative is connected to what you've said about the confusing, fractured nature of life today.

Soderbergh: Especially in this country now, it's really hard not to look around and go: What the hell is going on? Is it possible to get anything done? Is the center of this country go-

See SODERBERGH on Next Page

In 1966, Gene Roddenberry created his "wagon train to the stars." Following his 2009 reboot, director J.J. Abrams hopes to infuse the franchise with fresh energy while honoring its idealistic heart, as he offers up ...
STAR TREK
INTO DARKNESS
THE WILLFUL HERO
A rash, young James T. Kirk
To play a boyish Kirk, Chris Pine has aimed for brash, arrogant and cocky, but also for brilliant, charismatic, commanding; as "Into Darkness" starts, he is being made to answer for risks he takes and danger his crew faces
Before Trek, Pine had roles in earlier films, such as "Bottle Shock" and "Smokin' Aces"
The new/old Enterprise
WITH A MUSCLE CAR LOOK
THE CONFLICTED VULCAN
A less experienced Spock
The critical role of the half-Vulcan, half-human Spock is taken up by Zachary Quinto; as this story starts, Spock has tentatively learned to accept Kirk's willfullness; in his early dealings with his future captain, sparks flew
Before Trek, Quinto played Sylar, from "Heroes," and also appeared on "24"
The bad guy is a very angry former Starfleet operative, driven to attack Starfleet
◄ Benedict Cumberbatch as John Harrison
As is typical with an Abrams Trek film, secrecy about key plot elements was extreme; fan blogs threw primed antimatter onto the firestorm of rumors about who the new bad guy would be ...
• A reprise of Khan Noonien Singh, the genetically-enhanced superman from Earth's Eugenics Wars, played by Ricardo Montalban, who appeared in the original series episode "Space Seed" and returned in the second film
• Gary Mitchell, a best friend to Kirk in an early episode, who was frighteningly transformed, then either marooned or killed by Kirk, depending on how you look at it; played by Gary Lockwood
• William B. Harrison is a name heard early in an original series episode, "Bread and Circuses;" he was a flight officer from a vessel later stranded; played by an unknown extra
The original cast
Their costumes gave them trouble and the sets creaked, but the first crew laid down the ethos of Trek
DeForest Kelley as Dr. Leonard McCoy
McCoy formed the third leg of the power trio of The Original Series (TOS); he countered Spock's coolly logical, but sometimes insensitve, analyses, calmed Kirk's hot-headed impulses and, for the last time – he's a doctor, not a bricklayer!
Kelley died in 1999
James Doohan as Montgomery Scott
Scotty was the magician of the Engine Room, preserving his reputation as a miracle-worker by padding his estimates for time needed to complete critical repairs, or so he famously joked; a fiery Scot, he loved technical manuals and fine scotch whiskey
Doohan died in 2005
Nichelle Nichols as Nyota Uhura
Uhura, along with Sulu, embodied Roddenberry's effort to people the Enterprise bridge with a multicultural crew; her smooch with Kirk in a 1968 episode was the first interracial kiss on television; Uhura spoke Swahili
Nichols sang in TOS
George Takei as Hikaru Sulu
Sulu was a steady hand at the ship's helm and tended to revere Kirk for his leadership; he was an avid hobbyist, embracing botany and fencing; he rose to command his own starship, the USS Excelsior, in the sixth film, when he flew to Kirk's aid
An asteroid is named after Takei
Walter Koenig as Pavel Chekov
The show's producers added Chekov to the crew during the second season because they felt a younger man could spark some romantic interest on the show; he provided comic relief with endless inaccurate boasts about his Mother Russia
Koenig also starred in Babylon 5
Jeffrey Hunter as Capt. Christopher Pike
Pike was the first Enterprise captain in the (rejected) series pilot, "The Cage," footage from which was later edited into a two-part episode, "The Menagerie"; today, that show is still considered classic television science fiction
Hunter died at 42 after a fall
SERIES ON THE EDGE OF FOREVER
As the 12th Star Trek film, the second bold reboot by director J.J. Abrams, hits viewing screens across America on Friday, hordes of long-faithful fans in the audience will have one Prime Directive: to judge whether this new ride recalls the ideals that made them fall in love with the Trek universe in the first place, 46 years ago, way back in 1966. Red alert, shields up, we're going in.
Guest stars filling out the cast
Peter Weller as Admiral Marcus
Alice Eve as his daughter Dr. Carol Marcus
A rumored contingent of combative Klingons
Trek's 46-year run has included five shows, totaling 726 TV stories …
Original Series 1966 to 1969 1 pilot, 79 episodes made
Highlight, season 1 "The City on the Edge of Forever;" a time travel paradox traps Kirk in a cruel fate; he must let the woman he loves die
Low point, season 3 "Spock's Brain;" it gets hijacked by a go-go boot-clad underground female; "Brain and brain, what is brain?"
Animated Series 1973 to 1974 22 half-hour episodes made
Highlight, season 1 "The Slaver Weapon;" based on a Larry Niven story about the struggle for control of an ancient mutating weapon
Low point, season 1 "The Infinite Vulcan;" a huge clone of Spock will serve as galactic peacemaker; utter drivel, written by Koenig
Next Generation 1987 to 1994 178 episodes, 4 films made
Highlight, season 5 "The Inner Light;" Captain Jean-Luc Picard lives the past lives of a long-dead race in this elegant story
Low point, season 1 "Code of Honor;" alien race insists that Lt. Yar fight a death duel; by the end of this, you wanted her to die
Deep Space 9 1993 to 1999 176 episodes made
Highlight, season 6 "Rocks and Shoals;" Capt. Sisko and his team face a doggedly attacking force of Jem'Hadar in a pointless battle
Low point, season 1 "Dax;" this turgid tale has Dax accused of a murder she didn't commit, and she won't talk about it; irritating
Voyager 1995 to 2001 172 episodes made
Highlight, season 7 "Endgame;" the complex two-part finale finally lifted this sluggish series to the level fans had hoped for at its onset
Low point Where to start? Most of the first season, any episode with Kes in it; take your pick of any interminable holodeck episodes
Enterprise 2001 to 2005 98 episodes made
Highlight, season 2 "Cogenitor;" while visiting with friendly aliens, Trip stubbornly interferes in their social order, with horribly tragic results
Low point, season 2 "Judgment;" shameless ripoff of tale of Kirk and McCoy's jailing by Klingons in Star Trek 6
… and 12 films (so far)
And the reboot crew
They range in age from 23 (Yelchin) to 55 (Greenwood); it's assumed they're signed for another film
Karl Urban as Dr. Leonard McCoy
One of the early clips from the 2009 reboot film featured Urban, as McCoy, complaining bitterly about the dangers inherent in space travel, an attitude in keeping with the technology-averse character developed by Kelley in TOS
Starred in "Lord of the Rings"
Simon Pegg as Montgomery Scott
This casting ploy seems the one most deliberately gauged to appeal to the younger crowd; Pegg's comedic skills play well amid the high-stakes tension of Trek plots, and he still gets to say Scotty lines like "Ah'm givin' it all she's goot, Cap'n!"
Starred in "Shaun of the Dead"
Zoe Saldana as Nyota Uhura
This casting choice is the one most transparently gauged to appeal to the younger male crowd; in the first reboot film, Kirk flirted with Uhura shamelessly, yet she developed a relationship with Spock, a twist played against the infamous Kirk charm
Saldana was raised in Queens
John Cho as Hikaru Sulu
In TOS, Sulu was shown wielding swords twice, but then he was under the influence of either a mind-altering form of heavy water molecules acting like alcohol on the nervous system or a racism-inducing alien life form that thrived off emotional conflict
Did "Harold and Kumar" films
Anton Yelchin as Pavel Chekov
The first reboot poked fun at his heavy Russian accent when a speech-recognition device on the bridge refused to respond to what he was saying; he deftly used the transporter to save a party trying to beam up, all except for Spock's mother
Yelchin was born in Leningrad
Bruce Greenwood as Capt. Christopher Pike
Perfect choice for Pike; Greenwood's voice drips with authority; in the first reboot, he hands control of the ship over to Spock and orders Kirk to attempt a commando mission; you so badly want to warn him: "Don't go to planet Talos IV!"
Played JFK in "Thirteen Days"
GALACTIC HERO
Capt. James Tiberius Kirk
The most famous (and infamous) captain in Federation history; he's fought and bested Romulans, Klingons, Orions, the Gorn Captain, augmented humans, supercomputers, space entities, gangsters, telekinetic philospher kings and 23rd-century hippies; plus, he always got the girl, even when her skin was green
William Shatner defined the role of Starship Captain in TOS and the first seven films
STAR TREK
CEREBRAL SCIENTIST
First Officer Spock
Thought to be the most brilliant scientist in Starfleet, he became a respected captain in his own right and later in his long life, a diplomat; he always stood by his two human captains, Pike and Kirk; he mostly kept his human-Vulcan cool, even though his blood is green
Leonard Nimoy was Spock in TOS, in TNG, in films 1 through 6 and 11
The 'old' Enterprise
BLASTS AWAY WITH PHASERS
In TOS season three, "That Which Survives," the ship tops out at Warp 13.2 during an uncontrolled engine run, which Spock and Scotty correct
After its second season, TOS was almost cancelled by NBC, but fans wrote letters of support; eventually, only three seasons were filmed, short of the ship's five-year mission; but it spawned a syndication dynasty
Source: Paramount Pictures, StarTrek.com, Star Trek Wiki (Memory Alpha), MovieWeb.com, DigitalSpy.com, TrekMovie.com, Internet Movie Database, Trek Core, AP, McClatchy-Tribune
Graphic: Robert Dorrell © MCT 2013

ABRAMS

From Page 19

credentials in a visually spectacular opening scene set on an alien planet of crimson-red forests and roiling volcanic eruption.

If the stakes were high—first in reviving "Star Trek," then in trying to outdo the first film's box office tally of almost $400 million worldwide—Abrams said he didn't notice.

"I was aware of the pressure but never really felt it, because I was not a 'Star Trek' fan," he said. "Working on it didn't carry the same sort of personal challenge of wanting it to meet a feeling that I had had since I was a kid."

For "Star Wars"—which he emphatically has loved since childhood—the stakes are even higher. Abrams knows he has to find a new way to approach material that has seeped into the global bloodstream. He also has to erase the tang of disappointment that clings to the inferior second trilogy, released between 1999 and 2005.

Abrams says his approach will be similar in some ways to the one he took on with "Star Trek."

"No project can be or should be approached assuming that the audience has any investment," he said. "If they do, that's a bonus. But it doesn't preclude the required steps of reintroduction."

He is fairly certain about one thing—the worlds of 'Star Wars' and 'Star Trek' will never meet.

"One is a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. And one is us in a few hundred years," he said.

"They could not feel more different to me. I feel like in my mind there is no Venn diagram overlap."

He hasn't ruled out directing a third "Star Trek" film, though he acknowledges, "it feels unlikely—but it's a very bittersweet thing to admit."

Abrams, whose output suggests a ferocious work rate and a lack of sleep, insists he almost turned down "Star Wars" because he had enough on his plate already.

"We had family plans, and I thought the next movie I was going to do was a small, very specific story that we're working on, a comedy-drama that I really love," he said. "And then this thing came along that was a fairly unique opportunity and it sort of interrupted every expectation of what the next couple of years were going to be."

But colleagues scoff at the idea he could ever have said no to his dream job.

"I knew he loved 'Star Wars' so much that my first thought was 'Oh my God, my friend is going to get to do what he's always wanted to do,'" Orci said. "On the other hand, I'm a 'Star Trek' geek, and I was like, ' You traitor!'"

Pine admits to being "a little heartbroken that he won't be back for the third to direct us, because he's obviously gained all our trust."

But, the actor said, "I'm excited for him and can't wait to see what he brings to ("Star Wars"), because as a kid from the 'Star Wars' generation, it's something near and dear to my heart. And I know what he's capable of doing."

SODERBERGH

From Page 19

ing to hold or is it just going to be completely marginalized by extremists on every side of every issue? I don't know. I'm alarmed.

AP: The private sexuality of "Behind the Candelabra" bears some similarities to "Sex, Lies."

Soderbergh: It was a great way to express my appreciation for a kind of movie I've watched my whole life but never got to make, which is kind of a melodrama. I looked at as being in line with all the Douglas Sirk movies and "Sunset Blvd." and "All About Eve" and "Valley of the Dolls." . It was interesting to look around and wonder when I'll be doing this again.

AP: What will you miss the most?

Soderbergh: Editing.

AP: What's surprising about you stepping away from filmmaking is that you seem to relish the process so much, shooting and editing your own films.

Soderbergh: I have a plan. I have an idea of how it can go, and I'm willing to throw it all out at a moment's notice to go somewhere else with it. I expect to discover things. I expect accidents. I expect something that somebody suggests or says will move me in another direction. I'm creating an environment in order to conjure that kind of things. I want my experience of making something to be fluid and to be surprising. I want it to come alive in front of me.

AP: Some filmmakers spend years carefully constructing the films they hope will be masterpieces. That kind of approach has never been appealing to you?

Soderbergh: No, mostly because it makes my work worse. I discovered early on, the more time I had to mull something over, the worse it got—or the more insular it got, the more introspective, the more self-conscious. I needed to treat it like a sport.

AP: HBO picked up "Candelabra" after no studio would take it, and you're currently contemplating several TV projects. Are you excited about television?

Soderbergh: Very. Very. There's a lot of great stuff being made. You can go narrow and deep, and I like that. And this is all David Chase. He singlehandedly rebuilt the landscape. Anything that's on now that's any good is standing on his shoulders. I don't hear anybody talking about movies the way they talk about TV right now. Knowing that I can't swim upstream forever, it seems to me that if I want to work, that I need to move to a medium in which the way I like to do things is viewed as a positive and not a negative.

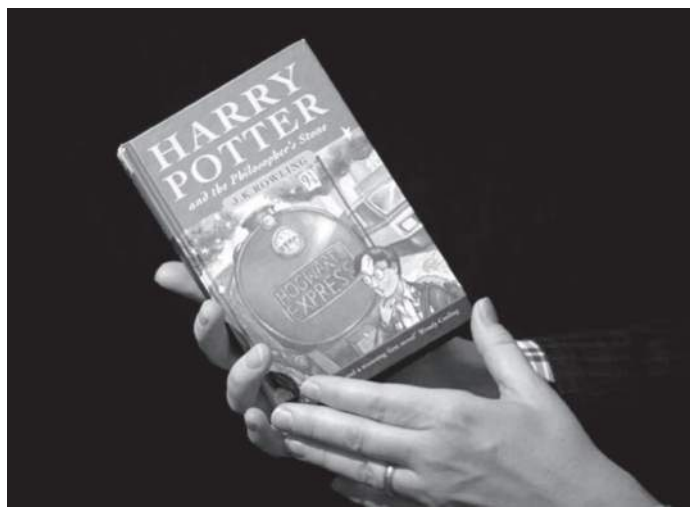
Annotated 'Harry Potter' 1st edition on auction

LONDON (AP)—A first edition copy of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" that contains author J.K. Rowling's notes and original illustrations is going on sale at a charity auction.

The personal annotations from the best-selling author included comments on the process of writing and a section from an early draft of the novel. They also included a note on how the best-selling author came to create the game of Quidditch.

It "was invented in a small hotel in Manchester after a row with my then boyfriend. I had been pondering the things that hold a society together, cause it to congregate and signify its particular character and I knew I needed a sport," she wrote.

Rowling also drew illustrations in the book, including a sleeping baby Harry on a door step and an Albus Dumbledore Chocolate Frog card.



AP

Sotheby's director of the department of printed books and manuscripts Dr Philip Errington poses for photographers with a first edition copy of the first Harry Potter book "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" containing annotations and illustrations by author J.K. Rowling, during a photocall organized for the media at the auction house's premises in London, Monday, May 20, 2013.

The copy will be sold Tuesday at Sotheby's London as part of an auction jointly organized with the writers' association English PEN.

The group, a charity that promotes the freedom to read and write, asked 50 acclaimed authors to "scribble second thoughts, marginalia or drawings" on a first-edition copy of one of their books.

Other participating authors included Kazuo Ishiguro, Ian McEwan, Seamus Heaney, Lionel Shriver and Yann Martel.

Sotheby's said Monday the funds raised will benefit English PEN.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Rowland, Rubio joining Cowell's show

NEW YORK (AP) — Simon Cowell has added former Destiny's Child singer Kelly Rowland and Latin artist Paulina Rubio to the cast of his competition show "The X Factor." Rowland and Rubio will be on the show when it starts its third season on Fox this fall. They replace Britney Spears and record producer Antonio "L.A." Reid. It's a reunion for Rowland and Cowell, although American audiences might not know that. She served as a judge for a season on the more successful British version of the music show. In a news release Monday, Rubio told Cowell to "be careful what you wish for." She said she wondered if the notoriously cranky judge would be ready to handle her.

Publicist: Founding member of The Doors dies at 74

Ray Manzarek, a founding member of the 1960s rock group The Doors whose versatile and often haunting keyboards complemented Jim Morrison's gloomy baritone and helped set the mood for some of rock's most enduring songs, has died. He was 74. Manzarek died Monday in Rosenheim, Germany, surrounded by his family, said publicist Heidi Robinson-Fitzgerald. She said the musician's manager, Tom Vitorino, confirmed Manzarek died after being stricken with bile duct cancer. The Doors' original lineup, which also included drummer John Densmore and guitarist Robbie Krieger, was only together for a few years and they only made six studio albums. But the band has retained a large and obsessive following decades after Morrison's death, in 1971.

Barbra Streisand to receive honorary PhD in Israel

JERUSALEM (AP) — A leading Israeli university says it will present singer Barbra Streisand with an honorary Ph.D. when she visits Israel next month. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem said Monday it was granting the singer the degree because of her concern for human rights and dedication to Israel and the Jewish people. Streisand, 71, is expected to perform at a June conference in honor of the 90th birthday of Israeli President Shimon Peres. She will also appear in two public concerts. It will be the first time the Jewish singer performs in Israel. The university's school of Jewish studies, established in 1984, is named after Streisand's father, Emanuel. Streisand also holds an honorary doctorate in Arts and Humanities from Brandeis University in the U.S.

Actor urges US to pressure Bolivia to free citizen

WASHINGTON (AP) — Actor Sean Penn urged the U.S. government to pressure Bolivia to free an American businessman detained without charge since 2011 in a case that has drawn accusations he was the victim of corrupt local prosecutors. Penn said pressure on Bolivian President Evo Morales could help free Jacob Ostreicher. "International pressure could very well be what the president of Bolivia needs to be able to finally expel the malignant cancer of corruption that is killing both the Bolivian justice system and the thousands of innocent people like Mr. Ostreicher," Penn told a congressional committee looking at Ostreicher's case. Ostreicher was granted house arrest in December after being jailed 18 months without being charged with any crime. He was arrested in a money laundering case in June 2011 while he was trying to salvage a rice-growing venture in which he and a Swiss partner invested $25 million.

Jackson concert director worked without contract

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's doctor was not the only person working on the singer's ill-fated "This Is It" tour without a fully executed contract, a corporate attorney for concert promoter AEG Live LLC testified Monday.

The tour's director Kenny Ortega was being paid based on an agreement laid out solely in emails, AEG General Counsel Shawn Trell told jurors.

Jackson's mother is trying to show AEG was negligent in hiring Conrad Murray, the doctor who was later convicted of involuntary manslaughter in Jackson's June 2009 death.

Katherine Jackson claims AEG failed to properly investigate Murray before hiring him to serve as her son's tour physician, and that the company missed or ignored red flags about the singer's health before his death. AEG denies it hired Murray.

In court, attorneys for Katherine Jackson displayed emails sent a month before the death of her son in which Murray's contract terms were laid out.

Trell said those emails did not demonstrate an employment relationship—a key element of the case that will be decided by a jury of six men and six women.

Trell acknowledged, however, that Ortega was paid for his work on the shows despite working under terms laid out only in a series of emails.

"Kenny Ortega is different from Conrad Murray," Trell testified.

Michael Jackson died before signing a $150,000 a month contract for Murray to serve as his doctor on the "This Is It" tour. AEG's attorneys say Jackson's signature was required to finalize Murrays' contract.

Seth MacFarlane won't return as 2014 Oscar host

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Seth MacFarlane is too busy to host the Oscars in 2014.

The multitalented comedian says on Twitter that he "tried to make it work schedule-wise, but I need sleep."

MacFarlane said in his tweet Monday that Academy Awards producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron are among the best in the business. Zadan and Meron produced this year's Oscar show, which earned higher ratings among coveted younger viewers, and will be returning for the 2014 telecast.

MacFarlane earned mixed reviews for his first outing as Oscar host in February, with some finding his material sexist and anti-Semitic.

The creator of "Family Guy" suggested Oscar producers tap the eccentric actor Joaquin Phoenix to host the show.

Toby Keith says Okla. hometown is 'strong'

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Country music performer Toby Keith says he grew up in the area near Oklahoma City that was hit by a devastating tornado.

Keith issued a statement saying Monday's tornado in Moore, Okla., devastated the community in which he grew up.

The city has embraced Keith's celebrity and his name is on the Moore water tower.

Keith says he remembers riding his bicycle through the stricken neighborhoods. Rescuers are still working to pull people from the rubble in the community that's southwest of Oklahoma City.

Keith says Moore "is strong and will persevere."

Gender reassignment involves more than a lifestyle change

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I recently learned that our sister-in-law's adult son from a prior marriage, "Charlie," is now "Claire." My husband and I have three sons, ages 2 to 10 years.

This sister-in-law expressed concern that our 10-year-old would remember Charlie and say something inappropriate. She's demanding that we lie to him and tell him Claire is another daughter we have never met.

My husband and I do not lie to our children. We feel it is best to explain to all three of our sons that Charlie has decided to make a lifestyle change and let them ask questions if they choose. What is your opinion?

TRUTH-TELLING PARENTS

DEAR PARENTS: I don't believe in lying to children either, but before you tell your sons that Charlie decided to make a "lifestyle change," I urge you to do some research about gender identity. It is not as simple on any level as changing an aspect of one's lifestyle. It is about who Claire truly feels she is inside.

If your oldest boy remembers Charlie, he should know that some people feel from an early age that they were born into the wrong body -- the wrong gender. Fortunately, there is help for it in the form of medication and surgery. He should be told that the problem has been solved and Charlie is now Claire. When the younger children are older, they can be told the same thing in an age-appropriate manner if the subject comes up.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My children's father died of cancer about a year ago. As a result, they receive Social Security benefits as his surviving dependents. He had no life insurance, so this is all they have.

The problem is nearly everyone who finds out they receive this money becomes angry and jealous. Abby, these benefits came from his earnings and are meant to assist me in supporting the children he is no longer here to help with. We try not to mention the money, but sometimes it comes up in conversation.

How can people be jealous about money received from such a tragedy? Would they really want to lose a family member in exchange for cash? Please ask people to be more considerate in a situation where a child has paid a far greater price than any check in the mail could cover.

SURVIVING MOM IN ILLINOIS

DEAR MOM: I'm sorry for your loss. People, particularly in a difficult economy, can become jealous if they think someone is getting "something for nothing." (And depending upon how dysfunctional a family is, they might indeed be willing to "lose" a family member in exchange for cash.)

I'm passing your sentiments along, but my advice to you is to stop discussing finances unless there is a specific reason why the person you're talking to must have that information.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law picks her nose in front of others by covering her finger with a tissue and then digging deep into her nose. She claims this is acceptable behavior even though the rest of us are grossed out. She refuses to stop unless somebody like you tells her otherwise.

Please help with this. I have a 7-year-old daughter who sees her, and I don't want her to think this is proper behavior in public.

GROSSED OUT

DEAR GROSSED OUT: It's one thing to use a tissue for a gentle nose-blow, and quite another to use it as camouflage for a major excavation. That your MIL is grossing out those around her should be evidence enough that what she's doing is bad manners. It is showing lack of consideration for those around her.

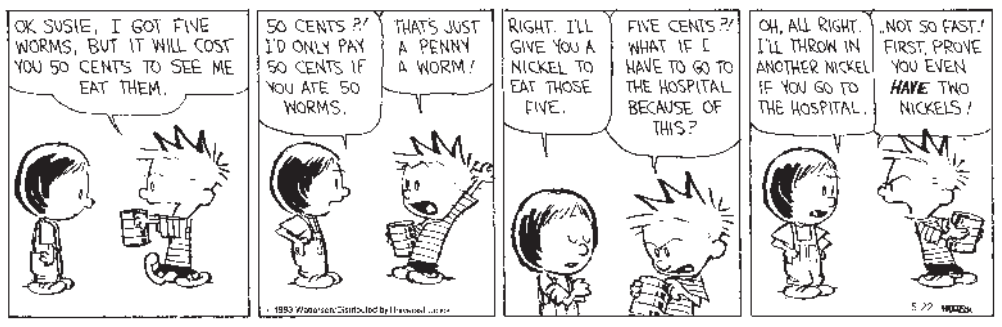
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OK SUSIE, I GOT FIVE WORMS, BUT IT WILL COST YOU 50 CENTS TO SEE ME EAT THEM.
50 CENTS ?! I'D ONLY PAY 50 CENTS IF YOU ATE 50 WORMS.
THAT'S JUST A PENNY A WORM!
RIGHT. I'LL GIVE YOU A NICKEL TO EAT THOSE FIVE.
FIVE CENTS ?! WHAT IF I HAVE TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE OF THIS?
OH, ALL RIGHT. I'LL THROW IN ANOTHER NICKEL IF YOU GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
..NOT SO FAST! FIRST, PROVE YOU EVEN HAVE TWO NICKELS!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

MOM, WHY IS DAD RUNNING AROUND THE YARD YELLING?
-SIGH- IT'S HIS "EARLY WARNING SYSTEM."
HE'S ALERTING ANIMALS IN THE GRASS THAT HE'S GOING TO BE MOWING SOON. SO THEY CAN FLEE.
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!! TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED!!
THAT'S KIND OF SWEET.
YES, YES. HE'S VERY SPECIAL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOU'RE A BUM!!
YOU STINK!
WHICH PLAYER ARE YOU YELLING AT?
THAT GUY IN THE BLEACHERS WHO WOULDN'T STAND WHEN I TRIED TO GET THE WAVE GOING.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

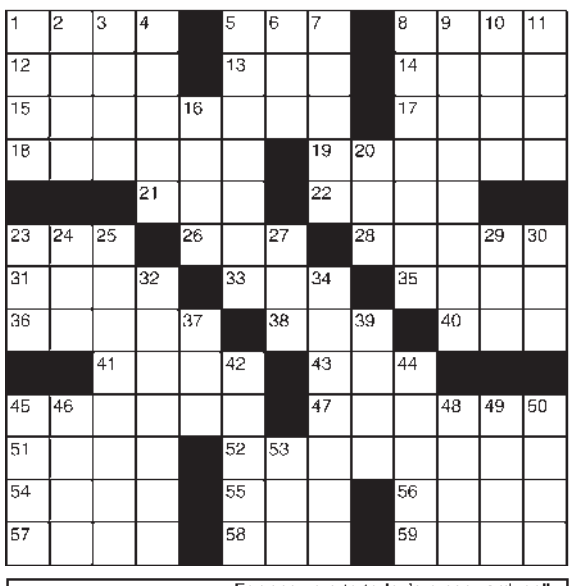
ACROSS
1 Work units
5 Urban carrier
8 Wanders
12 Hoodlum
13 Bobby of hockey
14 Leave out
15 Atmosphere
17 With skill
18 Godlike
19 Indefinite interval
21 To and —
22 Regimen
23 Sheepish comment
26 Mess up
28 Manicurist's concerns
31 Mater preceder
33 Insult (Sl.)
35 Nike slogan, "Just —"
36 Unpaid bills
38 1960s Pontiac
40 Homer's neighbor
41 Faraway fleet?
43 Actress Thurman
45 Help
47 Least adorned
51 Physicist Niels
52 Food of the gods
54 Tourney situations
55 Wire measure
56 Soda fountain treat
57 Right on the map?
58 Snoop
59 Arctic diving birds

DOWN
1 "Zounds!"
2 Jim of sports radio
3 Asian desert
4 Express disdain nasally
5 Massachusetts city
6 Joan of —
7 The staff of life
8 Proceed
9 Drive
10 Pickling herb
11 Eyelid woe
16 Ireland
20 Victory
23 Evil
24 Brewery product
25 Surprise attacks
27 Tractor-trailer
29 Falsehood
30 Norm: Abbr.
32 Originally
34 Unshaven, in a way
37 "Mayday!"
39 Mr. Sharif
42 Postage buy
44 Scent
45 Singer Lane
46 Protein-rich bean
48 Birthright barterer
49 Symbol of smoothness
50 Body pics
53 Russian space station

Solution time: 21 mins.

O	F	F	S	■	O	P	T	■	H	A	S	P
S	A	L	K	■	N	E	E	■	A	L	E	E
S	Q	U	I	N	T	E	D	■	R	O	L	L
O	S	F	■	I	O	N	■	C	I	F	F	T
■	■	■	E	S	P	■	J	O	E	■	■	■
I	R	A	O	I	■	B	A	N	Q	U	E	T
T	U	T	U	■	F	U	R	■	U	L	N	A
S	I	A	I	N	E	D	■	M	I	I	E	H
■	■	■	N	O	W	■	P	E	N	■	■	■
M	O	T	O	R	■	F	I	N	■	A	S	H
A	P	F	X	■	I	A	Q	U	I	N	T	A
L	U	R	E	■	E	M	U	■	S	N	U	G
I	S	M	S	■	G	E	E	■	P	A	N	S

Yesterday's answer 5-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Novak Djokovic, 26; Apolo Anton Ohno, 31; Ginnifer Goodwin, 35; Naomi Campbell, 43

Happy Birthday: Put more emphasis on work, getting along with your colleagues and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. You will make financial gains through the contacts you make while helping others. A chance to use your skills in more diverse ways will encourage all sorts of new opportunities. Nurture important relationships. A little give and take will lead to workable partnerships. Your numbers are 13, 18, 23, 25, 28, 31, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Emotional confusion will surface. When in doubt, don't make a move. Impulse may be your middle name, but for the time being you are best to sit and wait. Put more energy into social activities, pleasure trips or self-improvement. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't disregard what you've done in the past. Use your expertise as your calling card. Let your confidence shine through and impress someone who is in a position to help you get ahead. Travel, set up meetings and pursue your goals. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stop worrying and start enjoying your life. Live in the moment and make plans to do what you enjoy most. Connect with old friends or set your sights on a little good old-fashioned romance with someone special. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Do your own thing. Stick to projects that take imagination and you will ease your stress while working toward a goal you enjoy. Don't let uncertainty disrupt your plans. Your intuition will not let you down when it comes to judging someone's character. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): What you offer others will determine what you get in return. A philosophic change will introduce you to a unique group of people. Someone putting demands on you must be dealt with so you can follow a path that better suits your personality. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Question anyone promising the impossible. Rely on what you know you can accomplish on your own. Deception and disillusionment are apparent with regard to business partnerships. Clarify what you need and what you want. A positive, self-sufficient attitude will pay off. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Curiosity will take you to many different destinations and information sites. Your knowledge and your interest in what others are doing will boost your reputation and bring you in touch with people who will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Simplicity will be necessary. Don't let someone's anger or a lack of understanding hold you back. Having a clear-cut vision will help you move in a positive direction. A repair job is likely to cost you more than the quote. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Share your thoughts and make changes that will bring a positive influence to the way you live your life. Someone is likely to mislead you regarding a position or a place you are considering. Research your alternatives. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Rely on the information and skills you have already mastered. Choose your challenges wisely and set out to fix anything that isn't working according to plan. Strive for perfection and aim to please. Avoid people from your past who disappointed you. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take something you enjoy doing and turn it into a profitable venture. You'll capture interest with your unique ideas and charismatic way of presenting what you have to offer. Love is on the rise and romance is heading your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Relentless effort on your part will pay off financially. Don't be fooled by false information. Leave nothing to chance by doing your own fact-finding. A past relationship is likely to cause you grief if you reconnect. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are confident, passionate and playful. You are adaptable and helpful.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	4			5	8	2	7
3			4		8			6
7			2					5
6			7					1
	5	9	8				7	
			6				3	
			9			5		
			1			7		
	6	1				2		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	8	5	3	7	6	4	9	2
4	3	9	5	1	2	8	6	7
2	6	7	8	4	9	5	1	3
7	1	3	9	2	5	6	4	8
9	2	8	1	6	4	7	3	5
6	5	4	7	3	8	1	2	9
3	9	1	4	5	7	2	8	6
8	7	2	6	9	1	3	5	4
5	4	6	2	8	3	9	7	1

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHEESE FONDUE Solution: 8 letters

S	C	E	T	A	N	G	Y	C	R	I	T	S	F	C
M	O	B	I	E	F	O	H	T	W	I	R	L	E	Z
O	M	U	U	B	M	E	N	I	W	R	A	I	T	N
O	T	C	R	T	D	P	N	I	N	V	A	C	A	I
T	E	E	(F)	D	T	G	E	N	O	S	A	E	L	R
H	A	(O)	A	A	O	E	A	R	E	N	T	T	P	B
D	(R)	R	S	U	R	U	R	R	A	L	S	A	I	S
(K)	C	T	D	E	P	S	G	K	L	T	R	E	N	S
H	Y	A	Y	P	D	R	W	H	A	I	U	H	E	T
Q	C	U	N	I	N	T	A	I	C	S	C	R	U	E
N	R	R	S	D	E	R	A	H	S	R	E	C	E	M
G	U	H	A	E	L	T	F	O	S	S	E	O	Y	E
I	S	T	W	T	B	E	L	T	N	E	G	A	R	L
F	T	S	T	E	S	E	A	S	O	N	L	T	M	T
T	Y	O	N	Y	G	N	I	R	T	S	A	L	T	Y

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Yesterday's Answer: Cosmetics

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Find today's solution in classified section

Yankees hit 4 HRs, beat Orioles 6-4 in 10 innings

BALTIMORE (AP)—Vernon Wells doubled in the tiebreaking run in the 10th inning and the New York Yankees hit four solo homers in a 6-4 victory over the Orioles on Monday night, extending Baltimore's losing streak to six games.

New York trailed 4-3 in the ninth before Travis Hafner homered with one out on a 3-1 pitch from Jim Johnson, who has blown three straight save opportunities after converting a club-record 35 in a row. All three of those botched saves have come during Baltimore's current skid.

Hafner added an RBI single in the 10th inning for the Yankees, who have won 10 of 13 to move a season-high 12 games over .500 (28-16).

Robinson Cano hit his team-high 13th home run in the first inning for New York, David Adams clubbed his first major-league homer in the second and Lyle Overbay connected in the seventh.

In the 10th, Ichiro Suzuki led off with a double off Pedro Strop (0-2) and Wells followed with an RBI double to left. Hafner's two-out single made it 6-4.

David Robertson (3-0) worked the ninth and Mariano Rivera got three straight outs for his 17th save in 17 tries.

AP

New York Yankees' Vernon Wells hits a ground rule double in the 10th inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles in Baltimore, Monday, May 20, 2013.

Indians 10, Mariners 8

In Cleveland, Yan Gomes hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning as the Indians, twice revived by Seattle's fielding errors, beat the Mariners to complete a four-game sweep.

Gomes, who also homered in the second, drove a 3-2 pitch from Charlie Furbush (0-3) over the wall in left, giving the Indians their fifth straight win and third walk-off over the Mariners in four days. As Gomes reached the plate he was mobbed by his teammates following an improbable win that came after Cleveland's bullpen gave up homers in three consecutive innings.

It was the Indians' first four-game sweep of Seattle since 1981, and the comeback gave Cleveland its 18th win in 22 games.

Joe Smith (2-0) won despite giving up a go-ahead homer to Justin Smoak in the 10th.

Blue Jays 7, Rays 5

In Toronto, R.A. Dickey won his second straight start and Edwin Encarnacion hit a tiebreaking, bases-loaded double in the seventh inning as the Blue Jays beat the Rays.

Dickey (4-5) allowed three runs—two earned—and four hits in a season-high eight innings as the Blue Jays won their fourth straight home game. The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner walked four and struck out five.

Casey Janssen gave up a two-run homer to former Toronto shortstop Yunel Escobar in the ninth. Booed by the crowd of 29,885, Escobar made a safe sign as he crossed the plate, prompting more jeers.

Desmond Jennings followed with a single and Matt Joyce walked, bringing the potential go-ahead run to the plate, but Janssen struck out Ben Zobrist on three pitches to end it.

Encarnacion doubled in the seventh after Josh Lueke (0-1) walked the bases loaded around a sacrifice and a flyout. Encarnacion's hit off the left-field wall ricocheted past outfielder Sam Fuld.

White Sox 6, Red Sox 4

In Chicago, Adam Dunn hit a three-run homer in the first inning and the White Sox handed Jon Lester his first loss of the season with a victory over the Red Sox.

Alejandro De Aza and Alexei Ramirez added consecutive RBI doubles in the second as Chicago took advantage of an ineffective Lester (6-1) to earn its fifth win in seven games in the opener of an eight-game homestand. The White Sox scored each of their runs with two outs.

Jarrod Saltalamacchia hit a two-run homer for the Red Sox, who had won five in a row. Saltalamacchia made a bid for a second two-run shot, but Dayan Viciedo brought in his drive on the warning track in left-center with the White Sox clinging to a 6-4 lead in the seventh.

While Lester struggled, Dylan Axelrod (2-3) pitched six effective innings to win his second straight start. The right-hander, who could lose his spot in the rotation when John Danks comes off the disabled list, gave up two runs and four hits.

Astros 6, Royals 5

In Houston, Matt Dominguez hit a three-run homer and Jason Castro added a solo shot to give the Astros a win over the Royals.

The Astros trailed by one in the fourth inning before Dominguez launched his fourth homer of the season into the Crawford Boxes in left field to give Houston a 6-4 lead.

Castro's homer came in Houston's two-run third inning before Kansas City took the lead on a three-run home run by Miguel Tejada in the fourth. It was his first homer since 2011.

Houston's Dallas Keuchel (1-1) allowed nine hits and four runs while striking out six in 6 2-3 innings for the win. Closer Jose Veras struck out two in a perfect ninth for his seventh save.

Kansas City starter Jeremy Guthrie (5-2) allowed eight hits and a season-high six runs in five innings—his shortest start of the season.

Athletics 9, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Seth Smith homered and scored three times and Bartolo Colon pitched seven strong innings for his first win in nearly a month as the Athletics beat the Rangers.

Colon, who turns 40 on Friday, gave up two runs on six hits and struck out three. It was the first win for Colon (3-3) since April 23 at Boston.

Coco Crisp got three hits, and had the first of three straight Oakland doubles in a four-run fifth inning that broke a 1-1 tie. He scored when Yoenis Cespedes hit a line drive just over Adrian Beltre's head with the third baseman playing in, and Cespedes came home on Brandon Moss' line drive to the wall in right.

Josh Lindblom (0-1) lost in his 2013 debut and first major league start.

Dodgers 3, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, Clayton Kershaw scattered three singles in his second complete game of the year and Matt Kemp hit his first home run since April 24, lifting the Los Angeles Dodgers to a victory over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Ryan Braun managed a pair of singles and Yuniesky Betancourt also singled for the only hits off Kershaw (5-2). The lefty struck out five and walked one.

Andre Ethier homered and tripled for the last-place Dodgers before being ejected by plate umpire Dan Bellino for arguing a called third strike in the eighth inning.

The victory was a respite for Dodgers manager Don Mattingly. He addressed speculation before the game on whether he would be fired this week, insisting he didn't feel as if he was about to be replaced.

Yovani Gallardo (3-4) gave up three runs, including two homers, in six innings. The right-hander lost his third consecutive start and the reeling Brewers have dropped 15 of 18 games.

Giants 8, Nationals 0

In San Francisco, Ryan Vogelsong broke his throwing hand on a swing after pitching himself toward his first win in seven starts as San Francisco returned from a terrible road trip to beat Washington.

The right-hander fouled a ball off his right hand in the fifth inning and grimaced in pain. He was quickly examined near the batter's box and left the game.

Vogelsong (2-4) snapped a six-start winless stretch with his first victory since April 11 against the Cubs. He allowed three hits in five sharp innings and lowered his ERA from 8.06 to 7.19.

Brandon Belt hit a solo home run, matched his career best with four hits and scored three runs as the Giants pounded a season-high 17 hits. Angel Pagan hit an RBI double and a two-run single. He also made a leaping catch against the center-field wall.

San Francisco snapped a three-game skid after a 1-5 road trip through Toronto and Colorado.

Bryce Harper went 0 for 4 in his return to the Nationals' lineup after missing two games with a bruised left knee. Zach Duke (0-1) lasted 3 1-3 innings in a spot start for Ross Detwiler, sidelined with back spasms.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 1

In Denver, Patrick Corbin tossed a three-hitter for his first complete game and struck out a career-high 10, lifting Arizona over Colorado.

Corbin (7-0) joined Randy Johnson as the only lefties in team history to begin the season 7-0. He also turned in his club-record ninth straight start in which he's pitched at least six innings and allowed two runs or less.

Didi Gregorius drove in two runs for the NL West leaders. A.J. Pollock had three hits and scored twice. Paul Goldschmidt and Eric Chavez had RBI singles in the third.

Pinch-hitter Jordan Pacheco broke up Corbin's shutout bid with an RBI double in the eighth. Jon Garland (3-5) went six innings, allowing five runs and a season-high 11 hits.

Padres 4, Cardinals 2

In San Diego, Jason Marquis combined with four relievers on a four-hitter to win his fifth straight start and Will Venable homered to lead San Diego over NL Central-leading St. Louis.

Marquis (6-2) has won five consecutive starts for the first time since 2007 with the Chicago Cubs. He allowed two runs, one earned, on three hits in six innings.

Chris Denorfia went 3 for 3 with an RBI for the Padres, who have won three straight and five of seven. Huston Street pitched the ninth for his 11th save in 12 chances.

The Padres chased St. Louis rookie Shelby Miller (5-3) in the sixth, when they scored two runs on three walks, one hit and a hit batter. Miller entered with a 1.40 ERA, tied for the lowest in the majors.

Reds 4, Mets 3

In New York, Jay Bruce hit a tiebreaking homer and an RBI double to back Johnny Cueto's wild but effective return from the disabled list during Cincinnati's victory over New York.

Brandon Phillips had a two-run single for his first career hit off Shaun Marcum (0-5) in 13 at-bats. Phillips also made two sparkling plays in the field to help the Reds bounce back from a stunning 3-2 loss to the Phillies in which closer Aroldis Chapman gave up two home runs.

Chapman, the Reds' fifth reliever, struck out two in a perfect ninth for his ninth save. He had blown his two previous save chances.

Cueto (2-0) started for the first time since leaving his April 13 outing with a strained back muscle. Making his fourth start of the season, the Reds' ace gave up three hits and three runs with eight strikeouts in five innings. But he walked four and served up a three-run homer to Marlon Byrd.

After the homer, Cueto struck out four in a row with a fastball that reached the mid-90s.

Marlins 5, Phillies 1

In Miami, Alex Sanabia outpitched Cole Hamels in a matchup of struggling starters to lead Miami past Philadelphia.

Justin Ruggiano and Nick Green each drove in two runs for Miami in front of a season-low crowd of 13,231 at Marlins Park. Sanabia (3-6) allowed one run and seven hits over 6 1-3 innings.

Hamels (1-7) struck out 10 in six effective innings but has not won since April 28. Domonic Brown homered for the Phillies.

Miami had 11 hits and struck out 13 times on its way to scoring more than three runs for just the second time in 13 games. The Marlins have won two straight after dropping seven in a row and 10 of 11.

Braves 5, Twins 1

In Atlanta, Julio Teheran pitched into the ninth inning and Dan Uggla hit a three-run homer in the first as Atlanta beat struggling Minnesota for its fourth straight victory.

Teheran (3-1) gave up five hits, including Josh Willingham's homer in the ninth. He struck out four, walked one and threw 80 of 123 pitches for strikes during the longest outing of his career.

Cory Gearrin earned his first major league save. Minnesota has lost six straight.

After rallying late to win three in a row against the Dodgers last weekend, Atlanta jumped on Twins starter Kevin Correia (4-4) early.

Bosh aiming to be impactful against Pacers

MIAMI (AP)—This is the matchup Chris Bosh wanted in the Eastern Conference finals.

No, he might not necessarily enjoy going head-to-head with 7-foot-2 Roy Hibbert when the Miami Heat open this series against the Indiana Pacers on Wednesday night, especially since the Pacers' biggest man is arguably enjoying the best postseason run of his career to date. And it's not because he thinks Miami will waltz past the Pacers, either.

It's simply because this is the series that got taken away from him last season.

Bosh got hurt after playing just 16 minutes of Game 1 of the Miami-Indiana second-round series in 2012, badly straining an abdominal muscle when he reached past Hibbert for a fierce dunk. He missed the remainder of the series, which the Heat eventually won in six games on their way toward the NBA title.

"To be able to have a chance to compete against these guys, I didn't get the chance last time," Bosh said. "I felt last year that I could have really made an imprint on the series. And it's funny how things come back around. I'm going to get another shot. So I'm just thankful to be healthy and be able to play and we'll see what happens."

The irony of the play where Bosh got hurt—and where Miami's title hopes almost evaporated—was that it was a sensational move.

He caught a pass from LeBron James near the top of the key, took one hard dribble, drove past Hibbert, outstretched his left arm and slammed the ball home while getting fouled by the Pacers' center. The contact was minor. The result was a fluke.

Bosh felt intense pain around his abdomen, and remained on his hands and knees on the court for several seconds after the dunk. James came over and tapped him on the backside. Mike Miller grabbed at Bosh's arm, ready to pull him off the floor. After a few moments, Bosh slowly pulled himself to his feet, and even made the subsequent free throw for the Hibbert foul.

AP

Miami Heat's Chris Bosh (1) drives to the basket as Chicago Bulls' Jimmy Butler, right, defends during the first half of Game 5 of an NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinal, Wednesday, May 15, 2013 in Miami.

The pain didn't subside, and moments later, he was gone—for the series.

Bosh returned during the East finals against the Boston Celtics, and the Heat said after that series that without him, they probably wouldn't have even gotten a shot to face and ultimately beat the Oklahoma City Thunder in the NBA Finals.

"It's big-time," James said of having Bosh around for this series. "He's an All-Star. Multiple All-Star. We didn't have him last time we faced them. He's the wild-card for us, the way he's been rebounding this postseason and shooting the ball brings a whole new dynamic to our team."

There may be other matchups that command more attention going into this series, like the one between James and Paul George, or maybe Dwyane Wade and Lance Stephenson, or even the X's and O's chess match that will ensue between Miami coach Erik Spoelstra and Indiana coach Frank Vogel.

But the Bosh vs. Hibbert battle might be the one that decides who represents the East in the NBA Finals.

When Hibbert scores at least 14 points, the Pacers are 11-2 in playoff games. When he doesn't, they're 4-11. And while Bosh might not be the bruiser inside who can overpower Hibbert—who's three inches taller and 45 pounds bigger than the de facto Heat center—there is a simple way that Miami might be able to slow down the Pacers' center.

That would be to do what the Heat like to do most with Bosh on offense, let him extend defenses and exploit his jumper.

"He's very disruptive back there," Spoelstra said of Hibbert, who had 21 points, 12 rebounds and five blocked shots in Indiana's second-round-clinching win over New York on Saturday. "He's big, he's intelligent, he changes shots, he sees so many pick-and-rolls every night, he knows how to do it without fouling. He's, no question, the anchor of their defense."

Said Vogel: "Roy Hibbert is the best rim protector in the game."

Hibbert is most effective defensively around the rim, so having Bosh set up on the perimeter—as he's apt to do anyway—would serve two purposes. One, it would set him up for his preferred shot and would likely make Hibbert venture outside his comfort zone. Two, pulling Hibbert away from the rim could potentially free up some lanes for James and Wade to attack the basket.

"That's worth a lot," James said. "When Chris pulls anyone out of the lane, his ability to shoot the ball is a huge bonus for our team. There's not many (centers) that can stretch to the 3-point line. I don't know one besides Chris that can stretch to the 3-point line every night. So it works wonders for our team."

Bosh said he's eager for the challenge.

"I'm just thankful to be out there," Bosh said.

NBA BRIEFS

Men report attack after snapping photo of Lillard

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—Two brothers allege that people standing near Portland Trail Blazers point guard Damian Lillard assaulted them after one of the victims took a photo of the NBA Rookie of the Year. The brothers tell Portland television station KGW that the suspects were Lillard's "entourage," but police say they haven't determined whether they are associated with the player. Portland police Sgt. Pete Simpson says Lillard spoke with officers and "is not a suspect" in the assault. Simpson says the brothers had facial injuries and were treated at the scene after the scuffle early Saturday morning in a downtown nightlife district. They were not taken to a hospital. The Blazers say they're aware of the incident and based on preliminary reports, none of their players is considered a suspect in the case.

Bail set at $25K for Celtics' Terrence Williams

KENT, Wash. (AP)—A judge has set bail at $25,000 for Boston Celtics basketball player Terrence Williams after he was arrested and accused of brandishing a gun around the mother of his 10-year-old son during a visitation exchange. He was booked into the King County Jail in Seattle early Monday for investigation of assault. Bail was set during an afternoon court appearance, and the judge scheduled another hearing for Wednesday. According to a police report, the 25-year-old Williams went to the woman's apartment complex in the suburb of Kent to drop the boy off Sunday afternoon and displayed a gun during an argument. The report says Williams denied pointing the gun at anyone and told police he showed it because he felt threatened by the woman and her boyfriend.

Super Bowl 50 site to be decided Tuesday

BOSTON (AP)—Where the Super Bowl will celebrate a half-century of existence will be decided this week by NFL owners.

They have two choices for the 50th anniversary game in 2016: the San Francisco Bay Area and South Florida.

The 49ers' new stadium is being built and is scheduled to open for the 2014 season. With the NFL showing a penchant for bringing is championship game to new venues—Dallas and Indianapolis very recently, New Jersey next February—Santa Clara would appear to have a strong chance. Only once has the Bay Area staged a Super Bowl, in 1985 at Stanford Stadium.

"I think with the new stadium ... we can host a Super Bowl there," said Hall of Fame receiver Jerry Rice. "It's going to be awesome. So I realize there's a lot of history at Candlestick. To stay competitive in the NFL, this is something we have really needed for a long, long time, and I think it's going to be awesome."

Not so awesome for the Miami area was a defeat in the state Legislature earlier this month that could severely damage its hopes of being chosen as the 2016 host. Or, for that matter, for South Florida to beat Houston for the 2017 game should it lose to San Francisco for the 50th edition. Both sites will be decided Tuesday.

The Dolphins were denied public money for a stadium upgrade. Multibillionaire Dolphins owner Stephen Ross contends $350 million in stadium improvements are badly needed, but he doesn't want to pay for them by himself. Nor does he want a scaled-down renovation of the 26-year-old facility.

"The House leadership has made our efforts to bring the Super Bowl back to Miami and South Florida much more difficult," said Rodney Barreto, chairman of the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee.

Miami does have experience on its side, having hosted 10 Super Bowls, tied with New Orleans for the most. All of the South Florida title games have been successful, although the only outdoor Super Bowl played in the rain was held there in 2007 when Peyton Manning and the Colts won the championship.

"This is not the stadium we had hoped we could include in the bid," Dolphins CEO Mike Dee said. "But we will be there when the NFL owners vote, and we'll put our best foot forward."

A three-quarters majority of the 32 owners is required on the first ballot Tuesday. If neither city gets that, then a simple majority wins on the next ballot.

The loser in the 2016 bidding will face Houston for the 2017 Super Bowl. Houston hosted the 2004 game.

Texans owner Bob McNair is cautious about his city's chances, even with South Florida's political and financial struggles.

"Certainly what happened doesn't help Miami's bid. There's no doubt about that," McNair said. "But that doesn't say that the owners couldn't decide to still go to Miami."

For years, it was thought the NFL would seek to stage the 50th Super Bowl in Los Angeles, where the first one was played (but did not sell out) on Jan. 15, 1967. But with no franchise in LA and no suitable stadium projects approved, that hope disappeared.

Next Feb. 2, the game goes outdoors in a cold-weather site for the first time, at MetLife Stadium in the New Jersey Meadowlands. If that gamble pays off for the NFL, look for other cities in similar climates—Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Chicago, Denver—to bid for future Super Bowls.

The league also has expressed great satisfaction with how Indianapolis handled the big game in 2012. New Orleans is a regular bidder, and Commissioner Roger Goodell has said the power outage during last year's game will not impact voting on the Big Easy hosting another Super Bowl.

The 2015 game will be played in the Phoenix area.

Dollar Days outlasts Hoops

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Dollar Days quickly regained its winning form after thwarting the Hoopaholics, 72-63, in the second game in the 4th Shirley's Coffee Shop Basketball League last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The victory was the fourth in five games for Dollar Days, which had its three-game streak snapped last weekend before returning to the win column and moving up to solo second behind Mobil (5-1). The Hoops dropped to a 4-2 slate and is locked in a three-way tie for third to fifth place with Docomo and Shirley's.

Dollar Days bungled a double-digit lead early in the fourth quarter, but survived the Hoops' repeated comeback bids, getting timely baskets from Bart Demapan, Ivan Devero, Kae Bernardo, and Jun Pantaleon.

The Hoops, on the other hand, failed to break the 2-point barrier and committed defensive lapses in the homestretch, leaving the right shaded lane open (just less than 4 feet away from the basket) for four straight times. The first instance came after Walter Mendez's triple sliced the lead to 2, 59-61, with about three minutes left on the clock, as the Hoops left Demapan open in the paint, getting a drop pass from Wowie Abuel. Demapan made the shot and upped Dollar Days' lead to 4, 63-59, before a Kelvin Fitial drive brought the deficit back to 2. However, another basket from exactly the same spot came from Devero off Bernardo's feed and Dollar Days widened the gap anew.

Dexter Tenorio answered with a layup, entering the final two minutes to keep the Hoops afloat, but they committed the same defensive mistake again, as this time Bernardo was left open at the similar weak spot, made a basket and drew a foul. Bernardo missed the bonus shot, but Dollar Days retained the 4-point cushion, 67-63, after the Hoops muffed their shots in the ensuing play.

Pantaleon then made it a 6-point lead, as he also connected on a shot at the same area with less than a minute remaining on the clock. He went on to put the icing on the cake with a triple from the left corner, with 12 seconds left in the game.

Dollar Days managed to drill close shots in the homestretch, as the Hoops did not have enough manpower to check the paint with Mel Manibusan fouling out in the fourth, James Lee getting two technical fouls in the third, and Maverick Itibus going over the limit late in the third. The Hoops also played without big man Ben Lisua, giving Bernardo and company an inside advantage.

Kanoa 102, Kalayaan 72

In the curtain raiser, Kanoa broke into the win column after routing Kalayaan, Inc. (2-4)

Kanoa got at least 20 points each from three players to end its four-game losing skid. Preston Basa scored 23 points and Justin Zapanta and Perry Inos chipped in 22 apiece.

After a shaky 17-16 lead, Kanoa began to control the match in the second quarter en route to the 30-point win. Zapanta and Basa teamed up for 21 of Kanoa's 28 points in the second period to lift their team to a 45-31 halftime lead.

Basa then added 12 more points in the third, while Inos contributed 7, as Kanoa moved away further, 71-54, with only one quarter to go.

First Game

Kanoa Resort 102 – Basa 23, Zapanta 22, Inos 22, Bahillo 11, Valdez 8, Ajoste 8, Tenepere 2, Mejia 2.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Dollar Days' Ivan Devero pulls up for an acrobatic shot against the Hoopaholics' Walter Mendez during the fourth quarter of their game in the Shirley's caging last Monday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Kalayaan, Inc. 72 – Lerio 30, Camacho 15, Lerio 7, Ritual 7, Herrera 4, Rog. Hernandez 2, Caro2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-16, 45-31, 71-54, 102-72.

Second Game

Dollar Days 72 – I. Devero 16, Pantaleon 14, Talania 13, Demapan 12, Bernardo 9, Joyner 2, C. Devero 2.

Hoopaholics 63 – Fitial 18, Lauron 10, Tenorio 9, Mendez 6, Manibusan 6, Lee 6, Itibus 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-10, 42-29, 55-47, 72-63.

Sports world keeps eye on Oklahoma tornado

The massive tornado that ripped through a handful of Oklahoma City suburbs and killed at least 50 people grabbed the attention of the sports world on Monday, especially the players and coaches with ties to the area.

Kevin Durant, a three-time scoring champion for the NBA's Oklahoma City Thunder, posted on his Twitter account that he was praying for everyone involved. He added: "Everybody stay safe!"

Mets pitcher Jeremy Hefner went to Plaza Towers Elementary School in Moore, just south of Oklahoma City. The school had its roof torn off and walls knocked down. Some of those killed died at the school.

"I mean, it's terrifying," the right-hander said.

Hefner still has family living in Moore. He said he had been in contact with his mother, who told him his cousins and uncles were OK.

"It's just unfathomable," he said. "I used to live there."

Dodgers star Matt Kemp posted on Twitter: "`m giving $1000 for tonight's HR and every HR until the All-Star break for the victims of my hometown in OKC. (hash) PrayforOklahoma"

Coverage of the tornado damage was on the clubhouse TV as the Red Sox prepared for their game at the Chicago White Sox.

"It's a tragedy when you see a natural disaster like that take place, so many innocent people that are certainly affected, if not directly by injury or possibly loss of life," Boston manager John Farrell said. "Having been though something similar back in 1997 that had probably very similar damage, it's a scary situation. Our thoughts are with all the people affected."

Farrell played for Oklahoma State in college, and then served as the assistant coach and pitching and recruiting coordinator for the Cowboys for five seasons from 1997-2001.

"The location today is very close to where it was back in `97," Farrell said. "Just that area just south of Oklahoma City seems to be right in the path of unfortunately a lot of storm fronts and certainly the tornadoes again today."

White Sox manager Robin Ventura also played his college ball at Oklahoma State, where was a three-time All-America. The Santa Maria, Calif., native said he didn't know anything about tornadoes until there were a couple that passed through the area while he was in school.

"It's scary," he said. "There's nothing you can do about it."

Browns quarterback Brandon Weeden, who played at Oklahoma State and grew up in the Oklahoma City area, was relieved that no one in his wife's family was injured.

"Devastating damage to Moore, Oklahoma due to Tornadoes," Weeden wrote on his Twitter account. "Please keep these people in your prayers. Thankfully (at)MelanieWeeden family is safe."

Kansas coach basketball coach Bill Self also went to Oklahoma State.

"We wish nothing but the very best for (those affected by the storm) and our thoughts are with them," he said. ***(AP)***

BREWERS

From Page 28

three innings, which ended with the Brewers having a promising 5-0 advantage.

Mike Pangelinan put the Brewers on the board at the bottom of the first with his RBI single, while the pennant champions added four more in the next two innings off Marvin Kaipat and Juan Iguel's RBI singles, Nokki Saralu's RBI triple, and an error.

Cepeda stayed on the mound until the sixth inning, and though he gave up four runs and two hits, only one run was earned off Marvin Ngeskebei's RBI single. The Brewers starter added two more strikeouts before going to the dugout for Tom Camacho.

Cepeda went to the bench with the Brewers threatening to pull away with its 10-4 lead, as they got three more runs off the Fielders' erratic defensive plays and a two-run triple from Ton Guerrero in the fifth inning.

Camacho went on to pick up where Cepeda left off, allowing only three hits and one earned run, while the rest of his teammates were steady on defense.

Camacho started his shift at the top of the seventh and walked Cadiz Tenorio, who was later caught stealing second for the second out. Joe Palacios committed the first out when Brewers third baseman caught his fly ball and the Fielders were stuck to four runs, as Camacho earned his first strikeout and left Poland Masaharu stranded at second.

The Brewers then made it an 11-4 lead at the bottom of the seventh, as Kaipat doubled, reached third on a wild pitch, and made it home on Ngeskebei's throwing error.

Down by seven, the Fielders tried to mount a comeback and found a break early at the top of the eighth, scoring two quick runs. However, that was also their last runs, as the Brewers caught another fly ball and made a 4-3 put out play, while Camacho got his second strike in the eighth. The Brewers, who were caught for three early outs at the top of the ninth, then wrapped up the bottom quickly, catching three straight fly balls.

Kaipat paced the Brewers in Game 1 with his 4-for-5 performance at the plate, three runs, and two RBIs.

RED SOX

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The duel for the last finals set was another close match with Lizama making a sacrifice hit and in the process getting two crucial RBIs at the top of the seventh inning. The Enforcers got another run in that inning off a wild pitch to grab the lead, 6-4, going into the bottom. The Comets were in the driver's seat from the second to the sixth inning after tallying one run in the first and adding three in the third, while allowing the Enforcers to score only in the second (three runs).

The Comets failed to regain the upper hand, as it started the last inning with a fly out and was called for the second out off a 5-3 putout play on Vincent Taman, moving one out away from ending their season. A Franco Nakamura single, followed by his run off the Enforcers' errors kept the Comets in the game, but not for long, as another 5-3 putout play gave the Enforcers the win and the finals entry.

NORTHERN

From Page 28

Choi, Seiya Eda, Daniel Park, Amami Sakano, Colin Ramsey, Chris Cajigan, Moris Villanueva, Dylan Ackerman, Thea Minor, Mikayla Lopez, Negahr Rastguiy, Emily Jones, and Alina Ishikawa. They are hoping to join the elite ranks of CNMI tennis players who won Junior ITF ranking points.

The IT&E Northern Marianas Open Junior Championships will give 30 ranking points to the singles champion, 20 to the runner-up, 15 to semifinalists, 10 to quarterfinalists, and 5 to the losers in the Round of 16.

"Our players are very excited. They've been practicing for the past few weeks and I hope they get a chance to get Junior ITF ranking points. Hosting this event will give them this great opportunity to challenge players from around the world without having to go off-island," NMITA president and coach Jeff Race said in a telephone interview last weekend.

When asked of the quality of competition this week, Race said he expects tough games, judging from what he saw in the three qualifying games last Monday at PIC.

"They were great games and more will come in the next five days," he added.

Seven players joined the qualifying draw with three Korean bets and one Thai netter surviving the test and making it to the main draw of the boys U18 singles. Sang Cheon Ol defeated Japan's Sohta Namise, 6-1, 6-4, to advance to the main draw with compatriot Hyun Ching, who beat American Elliot Thorthon, 6-3, 6-1. Completing the list were Thailand's Leo Vithoontien, who eliminated Korea's Donghwi Shin, 6-3, 6-2, and Hong Jun Lee, who drew a bye and automatically marched into the main draw.

The first round pairings in the girls and boys singles main draw were made last night, but will only be available today, as per tournament rules. Also last night, NMITA hosted a welcome dinner party to the visiting players and their coaches.

IT&E, August Health Care, All-Star Sport, Hertz Rent A Car, PIC, Kanoa, TSL Foundation, Subway, and Powerade/Coca-Cola are sponsoring the U18 tournament.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	28	16	.636	_
Boston	27	18	.600	1Ω
Baltimore	23	21	.523	5
Tampa Bay	23	21	.523	5
Toronto	18	26	.409	10

Central Division

Cleveland	26	17	.605	_
Detroit	23	19	.548	2 1/2
Kansas City	20	21	.488	5
Chicago	20	23	.465	6
Minnesota	18	23	.439	7

West Division

Texas	29	16	.644	_
Oakland	24	22	.522	5 1/2
Seattle	20	25	.444	9
Los Angeles	17	27	.386	11 1/2
Houston	13	32	.289	16

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	26	18	.591	_
Washington	23	22	.511	3 1/2
Philadelphia	21	24	.467	5 1/2
New York	17	25	.405	8
Miami	13	32	.289	13 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	28	16	.636	_
Cincinnati	27	18	.600	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	26	18	.591	2
Chicago	18	25	.419	9 1/2
Milwaukee	17	26	.395	10 1/2

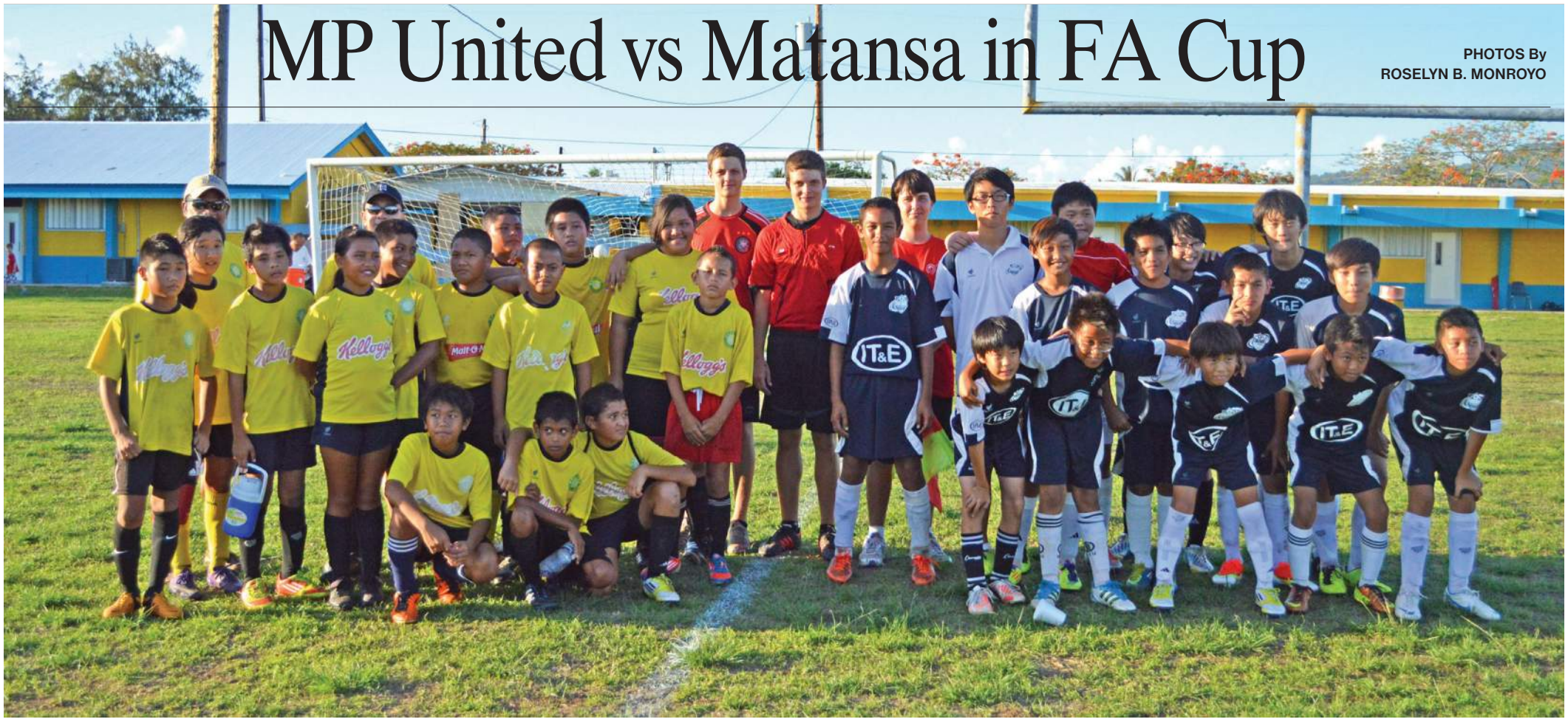
West Division

Arizona	26	19	.578	_
San Francisco	25	20	.556	1
Colorado	24	21	.533	2
San Diego	21	23	.477	4 1/2
Los Angeles	18	25	.419	7

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MP United vs Matansa in FA Cup

PHOTOS By
ROSELYN B. MONROYO



MP United U12 and Matansa U12 pose with game officials after their title game in the 2013 NMIFA Spring FA Boys & Girls Cup last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

The Matansa goalie catches the ball off a corner kick from Sunjoon Tenorio.

An MP United U12 striker goes for a kick.

MP United U12 players and coach Seung Joon Lee pose with the perpetual trophy.

MP United U12's Sunjoon Tenorio tries to control the ball.

A Matansa player steps in to pick up the ball.

MP United U12's Alex Park nudges a female Matansa defender.

NMIFA official Glenn Perez poses with MP United U12 coach Seung Joon Lee after presenting the championship trophy.

Two Matansa U12 players battle one MP United striker.

A Matansa player is sandwiched by MP United defenders.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Brewers draw first blood in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tan Holdings Brewers took Game 1 of the 2013 Saipan Major League, beating the IP&E Fielders, 11-6, last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Brewers held the Fielders without a run in the first three innings, while consistently hitting their targets to win the opener of the best-of-five title series. The Brewers go for a commanding 2-0 lead, while the Fielders aim to force a tie when they collide again in Game 2 tonight.

Starting pitcher Vince Cepeda gave up no runs, allowed only one hit and struck out four in the first

See BREWERS on Page 26

The Tan Holdings Brewers' Marvin Kaipat is congratulated by teammate Nokki Saralu after scoring a run off an IP&E Fielders' error at the bottom of the seventh inning in Game 2 of the SML title series last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Northern Marianas Open starts today

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

South Korea's Seng Hui Lee goes for a return against compatriot Jae Hee Cho during a practice game for the IT&E Northern Marianas Open Junior Championships last Monday at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The biggest tennis tournament in the CNMI will kick off today with Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association hosting the IT&E Northern Marianas Open Junior Championships.

The Grade 5 Junior ITF event will be played at the Pacific Islands Club hard court and Kanoa Resort, starting at 9am with the host's bets battling players from Japan, Hong Kong, Korea, U.S., China, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, South Africa, Germany, and Australia.

The CNMI has 14 entries to the five-competition. The list includes Rafael Jones, Tommy

See NORTHERN on Page 26

Red Sox vs Enforcers in Junior League finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Top 2 teams in the regular season of the Junior League division of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball survived their playoff games over the weekend to arrange a winner-take-all final tomorrow night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The pennant champion and top-ranked Red Sox pulled off a 5-4 win against the JPO Enforcers last Saturday to gain the first finals berth, while the Enforcers recovered and eked out a similar close victory, 6-5 versus the Comets last Sunday to earn another crack at their rivals.

The Red Sox-Enforcers battle for the first finals berth went into two extra innings with Jose Tyguingco scoring the winning run at the bottom of the ninth, making a

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A JPO Enforcers pitcher throws a warm-up pitch during an earlier game against the Comets in the regular season of the Junior League division of the SLLB at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

single and driving home Craig Aguon.

Tyguingco also nailed the game-tying run in the seventh inning, as he stole bases twice. He led off at the bottom of the seventh with a walk and the Enforcers was one out away from winning the game when starting pitcher Kier Agda struck out Jobe Reyes and Jonathan Sagun flied out. However, Tyguingco saved the day for the Red Sox, as he stole second, moved to third, and then stole home before the Enforcers got the third out on Jonah Reyes.

With the score tied at 4-all, the game went into extra inning and neither team gained a run in the eighth. Then at the top of the ninth, the Enforcers had a chance to score with bases loaded and two outs. However, Tyguingco again bailed the Red Sox out of trouble, picking up a short shot from Nathan Nogis and throwing to first for the third out.

With the loss, the Enforcers were forced to fight the Comets for the second and last finals ticket last Sunday. The third-ranked Comets boosted their finals bid after routing the Falcons last Saturday, 12-2.

See RED SOX on Page 26